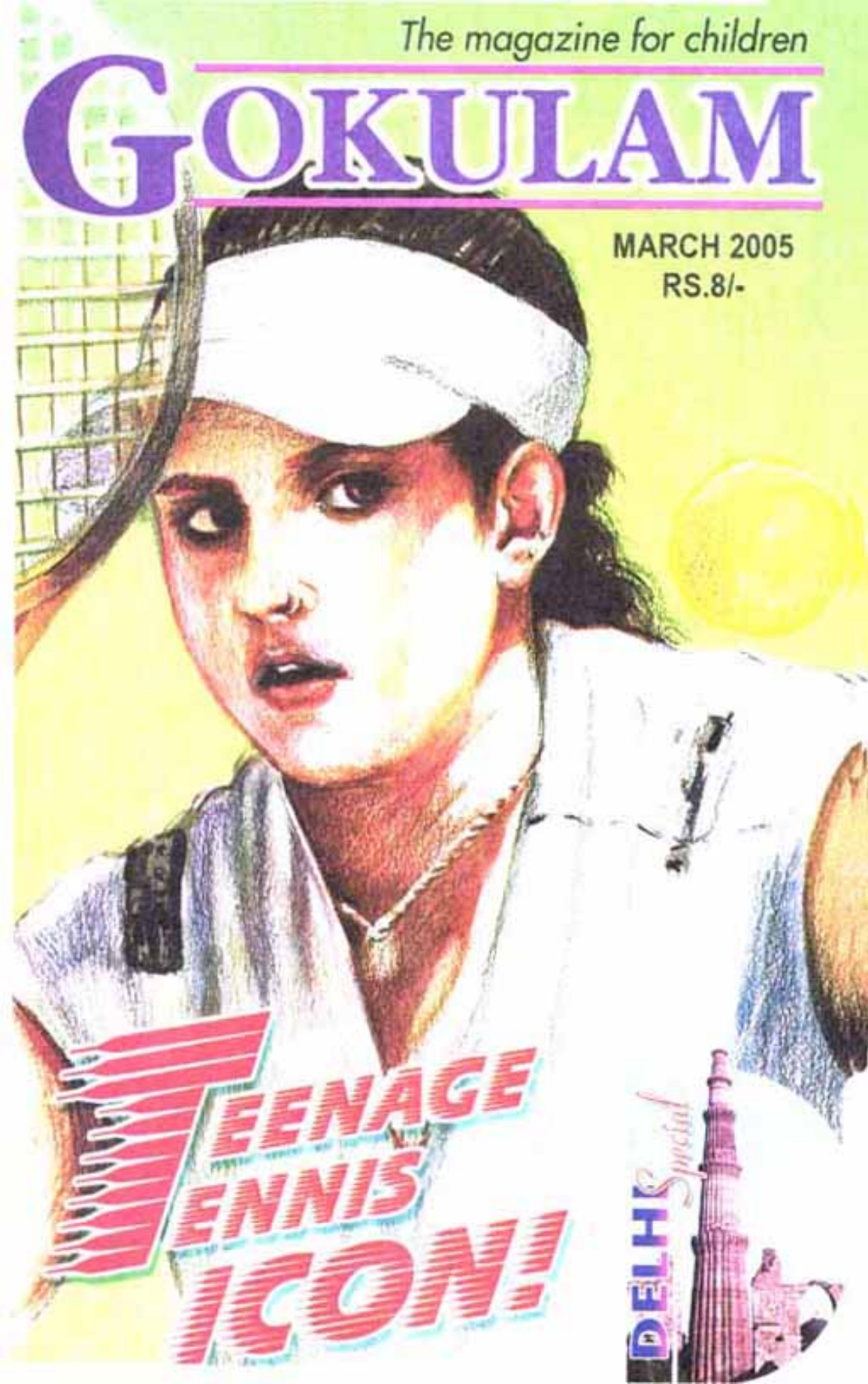
The magazine for children

GOKULAM

MARCH 2005
RS.8/-



SEMAS

ISO-9001:2000 Certified

Academy of Excellence

Advanced Japanese Abacus Education

Prize Winners with Chairman, Managing Director, Instructors and Parents in the 6th PAMA - International Competition held at Taiwan on 25th Dec. 2004

Organised by Taiwan Chamber of Commerce

7th PAMA - International Competition will be held on Dec.2005 at Singapore

SEMAS

Cultivates Six Abilities

Insight
Inspiration
Memorization
Concentration
Information Processing
Speed Reading & Listening

SEMAS solicits GLOBAL franchisee

Corporate Office SEMAS Pvt. Ltd.
545, 14th Street, 4th Sector, K.K.Nagar, Chennai 600 078.
Ph.: 24722550, 24722505, Fax : 24801083
www.semasindia.com Email : info@semasindia.com

SPECIAL FEATURE

Happy Holi 72

SERIALS

The Spy Kids 28

Mom, Dear Mom! 44

PICTURE STORIES

Clever Frog 36

The Golden Yam 57

Tomo in Egypt 68

Clever Trick 80

STORIES

Destiny 18

The Daunting Stranger 63

Ring Retrieved 74

CONTESTS

A Really 'Short' Story 48

Spot it Right 65

REGULAR FEATURES

Snippets 7

Letter Box 10

Grandmaworm 14

Budding Chef 17

Poems 20

Hello, Doctor 22

Jokes 24

Tech Talk 32

Personality 34

Creative Corner 39

Poster (Serena) 40, 41

Improve Your English 42

Art Gallery 49

Experience 50

Career Guidance 54

Sports Talk 56

Penpals 61

Puzzles 66

Viewpoint 70

Temple Treasures 76

News Analysis 78

Quiz 79

4

TEENAGE TENNIS ICON!

8

CHIMPU AND THE KIND ELF

25

POTTER FANS SPELLBOUND!

52

INCREDIBLE CAPITAL!

MARCH 2005 Vol. XVII, No.9

GOKULAM

Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM

(A Kalki Group Publication)

printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032

editor, printer and publisher :
K. Rajendran

layouts :
S. Stephen
P.R.Rajan

telephones :
22345622, 23, 24

fax :
044 - 22345621

e-mails :

editorial :
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com

subscriptions :
subscription@kalkiweekly.com

other information :
info@kalkiweekly.com

subscription rates :

Inland : annual
Rs.96/-

overseas : annual
25 US Dollars
Sri Lanka Rs.425

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR IN INDIA
(other than Southern States)
India Book House Pvt.Ltd.
Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune,
Delhi, Kolkatta

The Magazine for Children

SCIENTIFIC DISASTERS!

Dear Reader,

Plastic was considered to be a boon to mankind. Now governments all over the world are racking their brains to put an end to this menace! Splitting the atom was thought of as a great achievement. Today the fear of atomic war and radiation leaks, grips mankind. Conquering outer space was hailed as the greatest of all scientific progress. Now people know that outer space is being polluted. I can go on giving many more examples. Recently human cloning has been legalised in Britain, atleast for scientific experiments. Heaven knows what problems the human race is going to face in future when human cloning becomes a day to day affair!

Let us face it, scientific advancement is perhaps more detrimental than beneficial to society. The latest issue of Newsweek carries a cover story according to which diamonds have been made in the laboratory at 25% of the cost of real diamonds! When shown to diamond dealers they were satisfied that they were genuine and started negotiating the price! "This may well be the beginning of the end of a $60 billion international industry" warns News week!

I am dreading the day when wheat and rice are synthesised in the laboratory and later bulk produced in factories! The human race will not suffer from lack of food but will be wiped out for lack of a purpose to live for!

- Editor

GOKULAM

The magazine for children

IS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DUE FOR RENEWAL?

Subscribe now!

FREE

WITH EVERY TWO / THREE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

Name : .....

Address : .....

: .....

..... **Pin** : .....

Period : ☐ **1 year** Rs.96/- ☐ **2 years**** Rs.192/- ☐ **3 years**** Rs.288/-

Amount enclosed : Rs. ☐ (DD / MO / Cheque* favouring 'Gokulam') * ADD Rs. 20/- for Outstation cheques

**** FREE!**

Book worth Rs.39.50 'Fat is Beautiful and other Jayabalan Stories' with a two / three year subscription

**until stocks last

The Circulation Manager
Gokulam
'Kalki Buildings',
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 032.
E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com

TEENAGE TENNIS ICON!

***Sania Mirza**, the pretty Hyderabad teenager, rewrote Indian Women's Tennis History, when she entered the second round of the Australian Open and then went on to play Champion Serena Williams in the third round. Again, she is the first Indian to have won a WTA tournament (Hyderabad Open). She had already won a Mixed Doubles Bronze, pairing with Leander Paes in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, the Junior Wimbledon Doubles Championship (with Russian Alisa Kleybanova) in 2003 and several other titles abroad. In 2003, she was the government's "Save the Girl Child" ambassador.*

*Daughter of Naseema and Imran Mirza, Sania, an eighteen year old, is very confident on the court and off it. With a deadly combination of "hep" cum traditional looks, grace, guts and fiery determination, she has drawn the hitherto cricket crazy Indian populace to sit up and take notice of her and **tennis**! Budding sportspersons, would love to emulate her success story.*

At the Hyderabad Open WTA Championship, home crowds thronged to see her in action (including those who have never watched tennis ever before!) They did not even stay back to see the legendary Navratilova play! Sania has, indeed, done her coaches Narendranath, Vasudev Reddy and C.G.K.Bhoopati, proud.

In an exclusive telephonic interview, (on the day she stormed into the Quarter-finals of the Hyderabad Open), this is what she had to say.

Congrats Sania! Not only are you a tennis star, you seem to be the 'new style icon" for teenagers, with your trendy looks! Do you plan to take up modelling or enter films?

O, no! I do endorse a few products, but I love and enjoy my tennis.

Do you prefer traditional Indian dresses or sports gear?

That depends on my moods.

In India, a girl child is normally 'home-bound'. Was there any opposition to your taking up tennis?

No. My parents were very supportive and

encouraged me.

When and why did you choose to play tennis? Are your parents tennis players too? (Like the Krishnans and Amritrajs)

No. In fact if I'd been a boy, maybe, I'd have chosen cricket. Several men in my family play cricket. But women's cricket and tennis are two different things. Women's cricket hasn't really caught on in India. I started playing tennis when I was six.

Who inspired you? Who is your idol?

Steffi Graf. I watched her on T.V. and decided to play tennis.

Tennis is an expensive sport. Do you think kids from middle class Indian families can afford it?

Of course! In the beginning it doesn't cost too much, say a thousand bucks a month to play at a club. It's only when you travel for tournaments, especially abroad, do you need sponsors. Some sponsors do it for the love of the game.

Tennis requires a lot of stamina and fitness. Do you adhere to a special diet? What's your favourite dish?

Yes. I have been advised to avoid red meat and rice. But I love Biryani and even though I'm not supposed to eat it often, I do freak out during Ramzan! (laughs)

What about studies? How did (do) you juggle that with your practice?

I somehow managed. During my Boards I stopped playing for about a month and concentrated on my studies. Later I resumed my six to seven hours regimen.

Any hobbies?

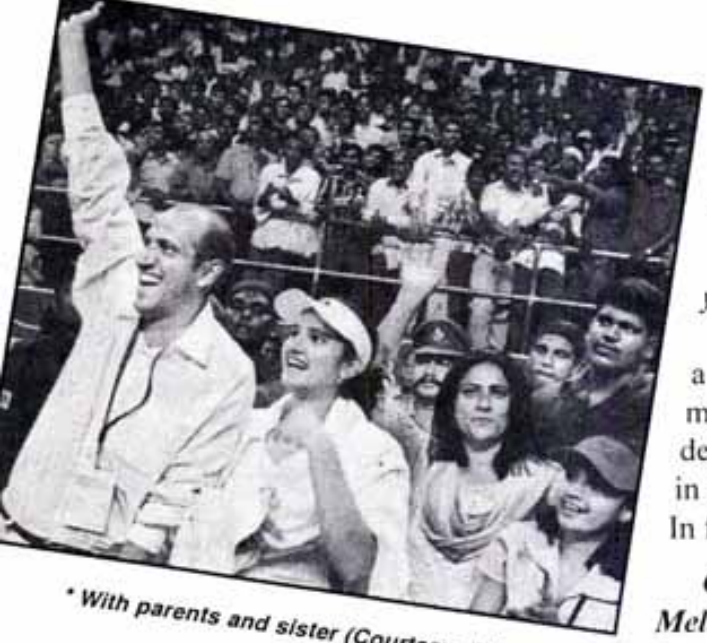
Listening to music (Rap and Hindi remix) and watching cricket matches and… the usual stuff..

Your kid sister obviously adores you. Does she also wish to emulate you? (The Mirza sisters can take on the Williams'!) How old is she, by the way?

O, no! Anam is too lazy to play outdoor games and will never be a tennis player. She'll probably play chess or something. She is in the fifth standard.

We saw her hug you on your arrival home (on T.V). What were her first words to

* Courtesy 'The Hindu'



* With parents and sister (Courtesy 'The Hindu')

you.

She is always very demonstrative-hugs and kisses me. But she didn't say anything to me.

Do you have tiffs with her like other siblings do? What about?

O, yes. We fight all the time about anything and everything. But we love each other.

Getting back to tennis, which match would you rate as your career best?

Today's match, when I beat Jie Zheng, (World ranking 61) fourth seed in this tournament (WTA Hyderabad Open), on home ground.

I thought you'd say the encounter with Champion Serena.

But I lost that match, remember?

How did you feel when you lost your very first set in the Australian Open first round, to Cindy Watson? Did you think you'd win the match? (After all, the home crowd would have supported her.)

I wasn't bothered by the crowd. I was determined to win and I did!

How do you motivate yourself?

It just comes from within-a strong desire to win the match. If I'm losing, I'm more determined to win. I want to be in the top 20 in WTA rankings. In fact, No.1!

Coming to the third round in Melbourne, when you had to play Serena, did you feel proud about facing a formidable opponent or did you feel it was sheer hard luck?

Neither. That match was a great learning experience.

Speaking of luck, do you keep any lucky charms on your person or pray before/during matches? (I know, like me, millions of Indians prayed for you!)

I don't believe in charms. But I do pray five times a day.

What is your Zodiac sign?

Scorpio. (D.O.B. 15th Nov. 1986)

Any message for Gokulam readers?

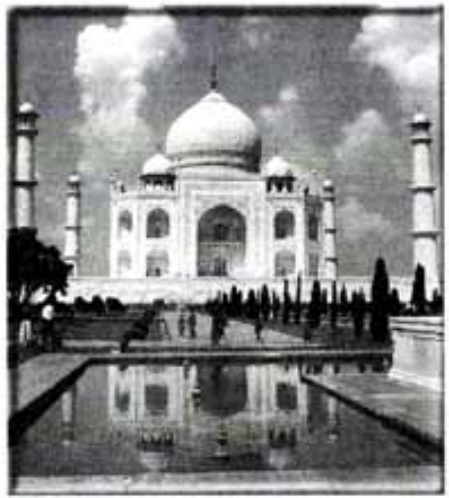
Whatever you do, just be focused. If you are good at studies, concentrate on it. If you'd like to be a player, work hard at it. But whatever you do, enjoy every moment of it!

Thanks Sania. All the best.

Interviewed by Priya Ravi

Indraprastha the seat of the Pandavas is believed to be Delhi's original city. This is where the Purana Qila is located.

- S. Indumathi, Std. IV, Chennai

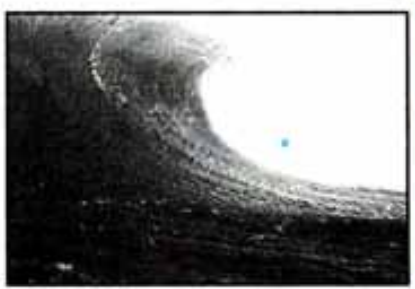


The Taj Mahal at Agra, 100 miles from Delhi, was designed by a Turkish architect. It took 20,000 workers about 20 years to build it!

- Aditi, Std. VI, Bangalore

The word 'tsunami' comes from the Japanese word 'tsu' or harbour and 'nami' or waves. The first sign of an impending tsunami is the sea receding from the shore!

- K. Kirthana, Std. VII, Chennai



Finland banned Donald Duck comics because ducks don't wear pants! After 'Popeye' comics started in 1931, spinach consumption went up by 33% in the U.S! Micky Mouse's ears are always turned outwards no matter which way his head points!

- Arnab Mishra, Std VI, Bhubaneswar

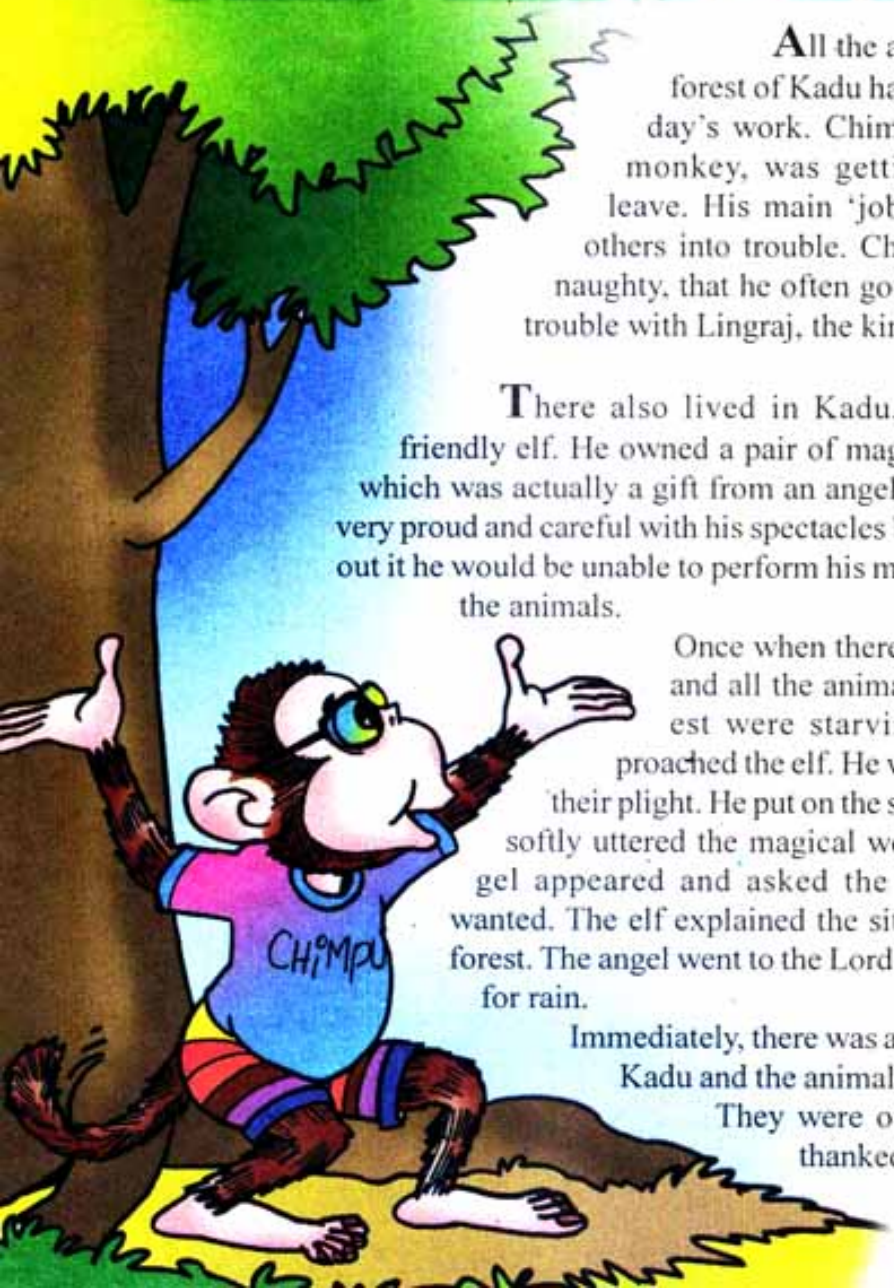
CHIMPU AND THE KIND ELF

All the animals in the forest of Kadu had begun their day's work. Chimpu, the little monkey, was getting ready to leave. His main 'job' was to get others into trouble. Chimpu was so naughty, that he often got himself into trouble with Lingraj, the king of Kadu.

There also lived in Kadu, a kind and friendly elf. He owned a pair of magic spectacles which was actually a gift from an angel. The elf was very proud and careful with his spectacles because without it he would be unable to perform his magic and help the animals.

Once when there was no rain, and all the animals in the forest were starving, they approached the elf. He was moved by their plight. He put on the spectacles and softly uttered the magical words. The angel appeared and asked the elf what he wanted. The elf explained the situation in the forest. The angel went to the Lord and appealed for rain.

Immediately, there was a downpour in Kadu and the animals were saved. They were overjoyed and thanked the kind elf.



A REALLY 'SHORT' STORY CONTEST-7

Chimpu who had been hiding behind a tree, had witnessed the elf's rituals. He decided to steal the elf's spectacles.

He got a wonderful opportunity, when the elf left the spectacles unattended near the window, for a while. Chimpu grabbed the glasses and ran away.

He tried them on, mumbled the magic words. Lo and behold! The angel appeared.

"What can I do for you," asked the angel.

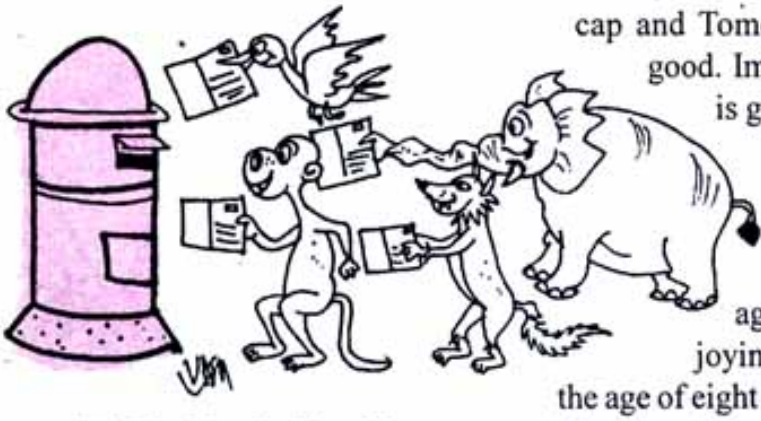
Chimpu hesitated only for a moment. "I want a long tail," he demanded. He had secretly admired the larger monkeys who gloated about their long tails and had always yearned for it.

The angel decided to teach Chimpu a lesson. Chimpu's tail grew longer and longer until he couldn't bear it. The other animals rushed to his aid but couldn't stop the tail from growing.

Chimpu begged the elf to save him. The kind elf immediately put on the spectacles and requested the angel to shrink Chimpu's tail. The angel agreed to do so, provided Chimpu would stop his pranks. Chimpu nodded and his tail was back to normal.

The King was relieved, and so were his subjects. As for Chimpu, he had learnt his lesson.

- A. Almas Parveen,
Std IV, Vedavalli Vidyalaya
Senior Sec. School, Walajapet



READERS (RE)COMMEND!

✉ The Mumbai Special was very interesting. I wrote to my cousin (my age) to read it. She also replied that she thought it was excellent.

- Vismitha, Age 16, Bangalore

✉ The January and February issues of GOKULAM were splendid. I wonder why even after repeated requests from readers, it is still a monthly. Gems like Grandmaworm, Temple Treasures, Tech Talk, Travel, Improve your English etc. add glitter to the magazine. Could you kindly give a detailed index for the articles?

- S. Balaji Ganapathi, Age 13, Dombivile (West)

✉ Stories, Penpals, Potter Recap and Tomo in the Alps were good. Improve your English is great.

- Mohit Kumar, Age 12, Banda, U.P

✉ My son, now aged 19, has been enjoying GOKULAM from the age of eight and preserved them. His sister loves it too and he still likes to read her copy! Congratulations for encouraging children to read and write for the magazine.

- Ms. Veena Sukumaran, Mumbai.

✉ I am a great fan of GOKULAM and Harry Potter. Could you give us info on Daniel Radcliffe (who acts as Harry in the movie).

- Deepika, Age 12, Hyderabad

✉ In the February issue (Bangalore Special), I liked Temple Treasures and my sister liked the story, 'The Aliens' very much. My classmates and I felt sad for the Tsunami victims. My English has improved.

- K.M. Bharat Arjun, Age 10, Pollachi, T.N

✉ My brother and I fight to be the first to read GOKULAM! My

English has improved and Grandmaworm sorts out all my problems.

- B. Divya, Std X, Pune.

✉ I needed help for my speech on water conservation and the article 'Saving water - need of the hour' gave me a lot of ideas.

- Ankita Panda, Std VIII, Bhubaneswar.

✉ I have been reading GOKULAM for five years. I love the puzzles, serials and short stories. GOKULAM has helped me improve my English and general knowledge.

- Dhravya Rao, Std IX, Bangalore

✉ I took GOKULAM to school and all my friends enjoyed it. Could you make it a weekly? P. Aishwarya's story 'Free bird' is a copy of Somerset Maugham's 'Princess September'. I request readers to send in their own stories.

- M. Jenila, Std.IX, Coimbatore

✉ 'Child Achievers' column is my favourite. I miss 'Case files'. Could you reintroduce it? I'd be delighted if you could have Andhra Pradash Special. Awaiting the March issue.

- K. Greeshma, Std.VIII, Srikakulam

SOLUTION TO SPOT IT RIGHT - 14

TIPU SULTAN

Congratulations!

The five lucky winners are:

1. Md. Arman, Std VIII, Darul Uloom Habibia, Junagadh.

2. Laxmi Venattu, Std. IV, St. Philomena Con. School, Nasik, Maharashtra.

3. A.K. Anees, Std. VIII, K.V. Kudremukh.

4. Pankaj Rathore, Std. VIII, East Point School, Ajmer, Rajasthan.

5. A. Athithya, Std.IV, Belpahar English Medium School, Belpahar Orissa.

✉ My 5 year old son enjoys reading the picture insert story on the last page of GOKULAM. He has cultivated the reading habit and his vocabulary has improved.

- Preetha Rengaswamy, Chennai

KOCHI CITY Special

Time to explore God's Own Country, Kerala. The May 2005 issue of GOKULAM *will be Kochi Special. Readers are invited to tell us all about Kochi and its neighbouring areas famous for their scenic splendor, Malabar cuisine and places of worship.*

Send us stories, experiences, poems etc... (along with pictures, if possible) Remember to mark the envelope 'Kochi Special'.

HURRY!
LAST DATE :
24.3.2005

STORY TIME
WITH UNCLE PAI

Do you share magic moments of reading a story along with your child ?
Do you ask your child to tell you a story ?

"Through ***Story Time with Uncle Pai,*** the cherished values of our culture are being communicated to young children by Uncle Pai, whose magic spell has been felt by the young and the old for more than 25 years."

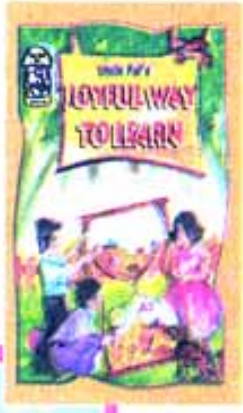
- Lokasatta

Why Stories ?

Recent studies indicate that stories read and heard in childhood have a lasting influence in later life.

Price (VCDs) : Rs. 130

For 8 to 11-year-olds



For 5 to 8-year-olds

Price (books) : Rs. 25

Price (books) : Rs. 40

Producers of Books, VCDs, DVDs

Lalit Media & Education Ltd.

305 - A, Manish Commercial Centre, Dr. Annie Besant Rd. Worli, Mumbai 400 025.
Tele. 022 - 24936702, 022 - 39600171 email : lalitmedia@yahoo.com

Dear Grandma,

My aim is to be a doctor and I am now in Std.VIII. There are many coaching centres advising students like us to enroll with them. They are costly too. What should I do?

- Himanshi Sahu, Korba.

Dear Himanshi,

Coaching centres spring up everywhere to prepare students for entrance exams. I personally feel that model exams and entrance exams

..to be a doctor..

should be abolished. If the school and its teachers impart knowledge in the proper manner, where is the need for these additional exams? They are too much of a strain and burden for students. However, since you are now only in the VIII standard, I think you can wait for a couple of more years before you join any coaching center. Consult your school principal and I'm sure he or she will help you to pick the best.

• • •

I am a great animal lover. I don't like killing even insects and I lose my temper if I see someone harming even an ant. Is my attitude correct?

- Subha Narayanan, Dombivli

Dear Subha,

Your love of animals is to be welcomed. But you cannot thrust your views on others. There are non - vegetarians amongst us. Agriculturists use pesticides often. Harmful termites and mosquitos are eradicated by using chemicals. Your mother knows how ants and cockroaches can became a menace. So don't get upset or angry about these things. Instead try to explain your point of view calmly. Whether accepted or not your have the satisfaction of having spoken out.

SAD SEPARATION FROM FRIENDS

• • •

My father has been transferred. But I don't

want to be separated from my friends in this colony. What am I to do?

- Shivani Deshpande, Chattisgarh.

Dear Shivani

I can understand and sympathise with your problem. But I would advise you to take leave of your friends and go along with your father. You have to understand that life is not always what you want it to be. You can always keep in touch with your friends through letters. I am sure that in a few days you will develop new friends in the new surroundings.

• • •

I have sent many contributions but none of them get published in GOKULAM. I seek your guidance.

Arnab Mishra, Bhubaneswar

Dear Arnab

I find you can write fairly well in English, though your handwriting needs improvement. Your contributions will certainly be considered by the Editor. But there are so many contributions waiting for a chance to get published that you may have to queue up behind them. Most important: Don't mix up your contributions. For instance, you have given some interesting information regarding cartoons but you have written it in the same post card used by you to address a question to me. Use different postcards for different subjects so that it becomes easy and convenient to handle them at this end.

• • •

I make a lot of careless mistakes. How can I reduce such mistakes?

S. Sanjith, Batticaloa

Dear Sanjith,

Careless mistakes can be avoided only by being more careful! Concentrate on what you are writing. After completing your answer paper or homework, revise it. The revision will help you to correct any mistakes caused by oversight or carelessness.

Love,

Grandmaworm

AIR POLLUTION

"The strong wind is blowing the rubbish all over the garden. Neela, bring the matchbox. I'll burn it all up," said Granny.

Neela fetched the matchbox. Granny lit up a fire at once. In went the dried leaves and other garden waste. Along went the plastic and rubber discards too. Smoke and fumes billowed into the air.

Daddy, who was reading the newspaper came running into the garden.

"What are you doing," he demanded.

"I've burnt the garbage," replied Granny.

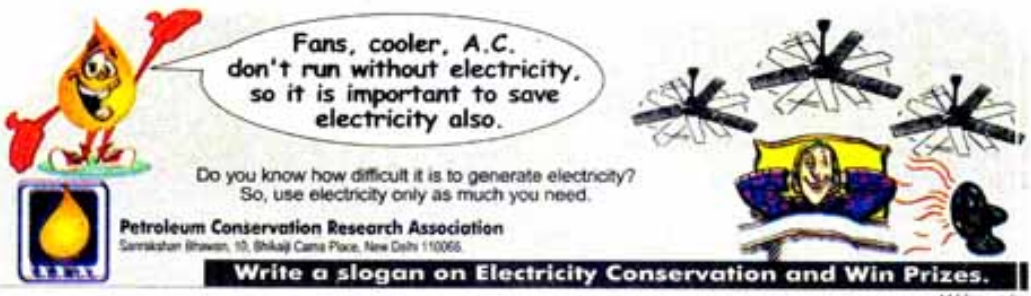
"I've arranged for the garden to be cleaned and the garbage dumped elsewhere. Why did you have to do this?" Daddy was angry.

" I only burnt all this waste. I don't know what I've done to upset you!"

"You are polluting the already polluted air. What is worse, you are burning plastic and rubber and poisoning the air. When we breathe in this air, it affects our health. Moreover, you might inadvertently cause a major fire accident due to the strong winds," explained Daddy.

"Oh! God! Really, daddy? We didn't realise. Granny let's not do this again," said Neela.

" Yes. How foolish I've been. I'll never burn these things again. Come let's go in", said Granny.



CRISP 'N COOL!

Also known as panipuri, Delhiites love golgappas prepared by the roadside vendors or chaat corners! Pop one into your mouth and the frail crust instantly gives way, flooding your mouth with a cool spicy liquid. If you are worried about hygiene and purity of the 'pani' (water), here's a recipe to make this snack at home, which is probably a subtle creation of somebody with a sense of humour!

Ingredients:

For Pani (water)

Tamarind 20 g, mint and coriander leaves - ½ bunch each, Green chilly - 1 - 2, made into paste, Black Salt (Kaala namak) - 1 tbsp (powdered), Panipoori Masala 3-4 tbsp, lime juice - 1 lemon, salt to taste, sugar - 1 tbsp.

For Puris: (Readymade puris are available) Maida - 1 cup, Rava - ½ cup, water to knead, Oil for deep frying.

For Stuffing: Boiled Potatoes - 1-2 nos. (mashed) cummin & coriander - 1 tbsp each, pinch of turmeric, salt to taste.

Method:

For Pani - Soak tamarind in ½ litre water. Add salt, chilly-mint - coriander paste and stir. Then add black salt, sugar, lemon juice and masala. Stir, strain and keep aside. Add upto ½ litre water (to taste).

For stuffing: Mix all ingredients and keep aside.

For puris: Make a stiff dough of the rava and maida. Roll out small puris of 5 cms diameter. Deep fry.

To serve, make a hole on one side of the puri, stuff with potato mixture, dip in 'pani' and serve immediately (or pop it into your mouth!)

- Priyanka Rao, Std XII, Mangalore

DESTINY

One day, Lord Vishnu went to visit Lord Shiva at Kailash. His mount, Garuda, was resting on a tree while his lord went in.

A small bird flew in and perched itself beside Garuda on the same tree. The bird saluted Garuda. Soon Lord Yama, the God of Death, came to visit Lord Shiva. Upon seeing Garuda, he enquired about his welfare and the purpose of his visit.

Lord Yama oddly glanced at the little bird, beside Garuda, and went on to meet Shiva.

"I feel you are in trouble, young one. Did you notice the way Yama looked at you?" Garuda asked the little bird.

The frightened bird replied, "Yes, yes. I'm scared. O King of Birds, please help me..."

Garuda asked the bird not to worry and promised to whisk him away to safety. He carried the bird to a very distant island and dropped him off.

"It will take Yama several days, if not months to find you here," Garuda assured the bird.

Garuda then got back to the same tree at Kailash to await his master's return, pretending as though nothing had happened.

Yama came out first and met

Garuda. "Thank you for transporting that small bird to that distant island. When I went in, I was wondering how I could take the life of that bird at that distant island when he was sitting on this tree beside you. But as destined, I can now perform my task at the appropriate time and place!"

Garuda was taken aback. He felt guilty about transporting the bird to its death.

But then, who can change destiny?

- Pranav Srikumar, Std IV,
Chinmaya Mission School,
Allapuzha, Kerala

DELHI DELIGHT!

INDIA'S PARADISE

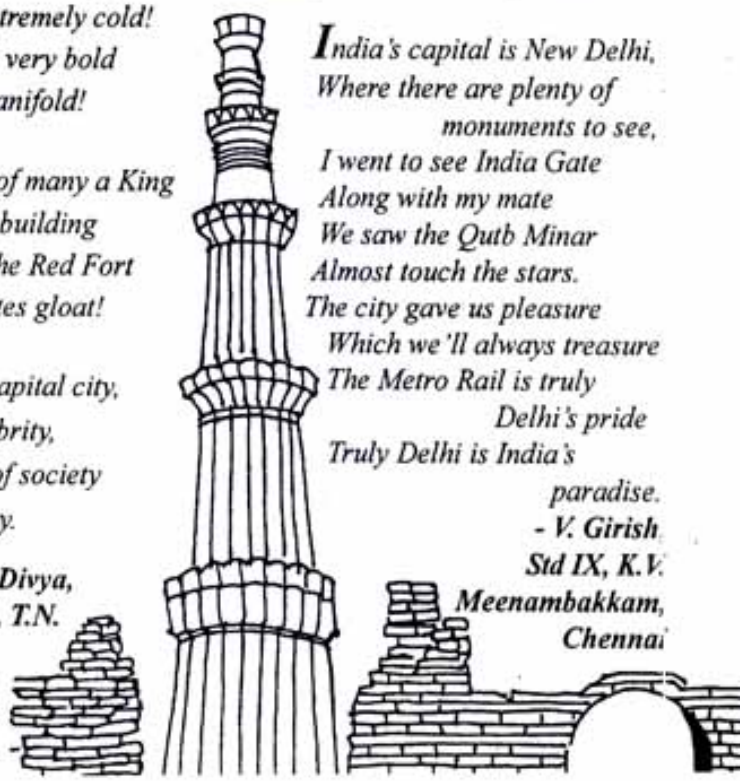
India's paradise, India's paradise
Truly Delhi is India's paradise
Supreme Court for justice,
Parliament for governance,
Red Fort for architecture.
Jamma Masjid for prayer.
Mughal Gardens for beauty,
And body guards for safety,
At Rashtrapati Bhawan,
The President resides.
Truly Delhi is India's paradise.

Delhi is divided into New and Old
The winters here are extremely cold!
The girls of the city are very bold
And their talents are manifold!

Delhi was the capital of many a King
Who loved monument building
The city is famous for the Red Fort
About which the Delhiites gloat!

New Delhi is India's capital city,
A city with many a celebrity,
But everyone is a part of society
In this cosmopolitan city.

- C.A. Divya,
Puthukkadai, T.N.



India's capital is New Delhi,
Where there are plenty of monuments to see,
I went to see India Gate
Along with my mate
We saw the Qutb Minar
Almost touch the stars.
The city gave us pleasure
Which we'll always treasure
The Metro Rail is truly Delhi's pride
Truly Delhi is India's paradise.

- V. Girish
Std IX, K.V.
Meenambakkam,
Chennai

LIFE IN DELHI

Delhi is the capital city,
Full of love and eternity,
Delhiites enjoy life to their fullest,
Speak politely, and give their best.

See their tall buildings of concrete,
Hear the sounds of the workers' feet.
People there are kind and nice,
Full of wit, humour and spice!

E'en in this city, prime,
There is a lot of crime.
But, do visit this wonderful place,
Full of love, beauty and grace.

-Ila Tyagi,
Age-13
Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer

DAZZLING DELHI!

I once went on a tour to Delhi,
The sights I witnessed filled me with glee.
First we visited the tall Qutb Minar
Even after centuries it shines like a new Libyan Dinar!

Next we saw the huge Parliament House
Standing before it, I felt I was a tiny mouse!
We went to see the India gate
And got back by bus, tired and late.

We visited many other sights with local friends
And learnt about the latest fashion trends.
Delhi is certainly a dazzling city
Always full of fun and festivity!

- R. Prashanth,
Std. IX,
Sri Shankara Vidyashram, Chennai

PREVENTION AND

● **Rupai, Kharagpur.**

? What are moles? My mother says, a change in colour of moles is a sign of cancer. Is it true?

! Moles or birth marks are caused genetically. A mole is a localised accumulation of melanocytes on the skin. They are generally black or red in colour. Any change in colour, size, shape or bleeding, calls for investigation. It may be a sign of cancer. Malignant (cancerous) moles are large, irregularly pigmented, slightly pinkish and inflamed.

● **K. Pravinkumar, Chennai**

? I have ringworm on the thighs. What is the cure for it?

! Ringworm, despite the name, has nothing to do with worms. It is a fungal infection of the skin and nail caused by dermatophytes. It can be contracted from infected people, soil or pet animals. There are many anti-fungal creams and lotions to treat the infection. Consult a dermatologist to select the effective and suitable one in your case. The cream or the lotion should be used twice daily for at least three weeks to avoid recurrence. If the infection is severe, anti- fungal tablets may be prescribed. Cleanliness and hygiene could help in prevention.

● **S. Harini, Ooty**

? I am suffering from corns on the foot. What is the remedy for it?

! Corns are a localised mass of condensed epithelial cells on the feet or toes. Chronic friction and pressure exerted on the foot, due to bad walking habits or unsuitable footwear like narrow - toed shoes, boots and high-heeled footwear, may result in corns. Excision of corns is a simple procedure,

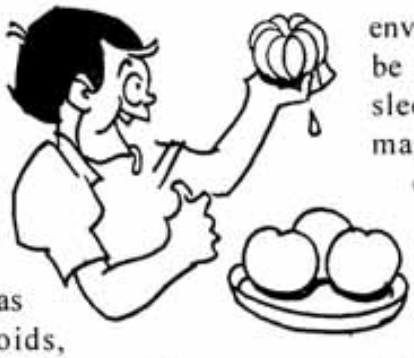
but until the source of pressure has been removed, corns will certainly recur.

● **N. Rajinikanth, Salem.**

? Consumption of oranges can prevent cancer. Is it true, doctor?

! Yes. Orange has flavinoids, carotenoids, terpenes and vitamin-C, which not only help to prevent cancer but also lessen the severity of the disease.

CURE



· **M. Mohanraj, Chennai.**

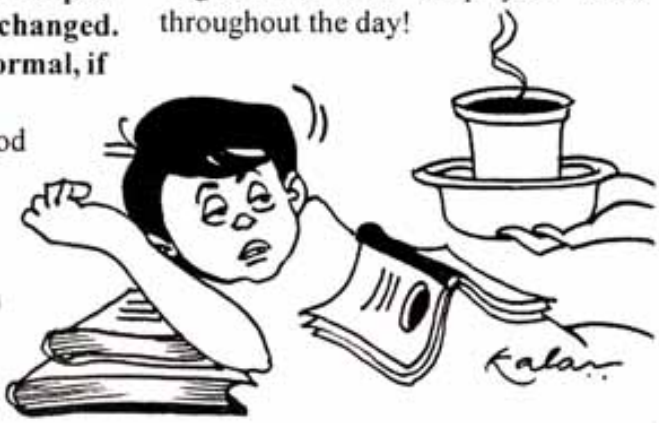
? I am taking honey for the past two weeks. My voice has changed. Will my voice get back to normal, if I stop taking honey?

! Honey is a health-food containing carbohydrate (sugar), vitamins and minerals. It has medicinal properties too. Consumption of honey will not affect your voice. An infection and inflammation of the voice box could be the cause. Consult an E.N.T. surgeon. In the meantime, gargling with lukewarm water may help soothe your throat.

● **Abhishek Nair, Chandrapur, Maharashtra.**

? I am a Std.X student and feel very sleepy, even if I sleep for more than eight hours. My mother gives me black coffee at night. Is it okay? Is there any other remedy?

! Genetic or environmental factors may be the cause of excessive sleepiness. Black coffee may help you to some extent, but you might need to take short naps for refreshing yourself. Regular exercises and yoga will help you feel fresh during the day and also give you a good night's sleep. Add some leafy vegetables to your daily diet. The vitamins and minerals present in vegetables will keep you brisk throughout the day!



LAUGH OFF!

Child : Amma! I came third in the race!

Mother : Wonderful! How many kids participated?

Child : Three!

- Shrishti Mishra,
Std. VII, Chitwadigi,
Karnataka

Teacher : Name four animals of the cat family.

Student (Shekhar) : Mother cat, Father cat and two kittens!

- Nitin V. Kulkarni,
Std. IX, Dombivili (W)

Teacher (in a boarding school) : Why didn't you finish your homework?

Student: Sir, my roommate didn't do his homework, then how could I...?

- S. Manjunath,
Std. VIII, Coimbatore

Boy : Please give me a calendar.

Shop keeper : Sure. Which one?

Boy : The one with more holidays!

- Sarika Suresh,
Std. IV,
Sydney, Australia

POTTER FANS SPELLBOUND!

As we move closer to the release of the sixth book in the Potter series (on 16th July), 'Pottermaniacs' seem to have shifted into over drive! We have been flooded with poems, facts/ rumours, paintings, puzzles and even letters to be redirected to other Gokulam Potter fans! We give you a sample. Have fun!

Here are some facts not yet revealed by JKR in her previous books.

1.Ginny Weasley's first name is Ginerva

2. Arthur Weasley has two brothers.

3. Dean Thomas' father was killed by a Death Eater when he refused to join them. Neither Dean nor his mother know this.

4. Dumbledore is 150 years old and McGonagall is seventy years old.

5. Moaning Myrtle and Tonks are going to make an appearance again.

6. Cho won't be the romantic interest of Harry , but Harry will have a little romance, says JK.

7. Harry tells his dearest friends about the prophecy after it sinks into him.

8. We'll know what happens to Sirius' motorbike.

K.Shravya Lahari Std VIII
Chinmaya Vidyalaya
Hyderabad.

Some theories and facts in Books 6 & 7

1. We've all heard that Dumbledore knows pretty much

everything that goes on at Hogwarts. He also didn't care if he lost all his acclaim, except taking his face off the Chocolate Frogs cards. Perhaps Dumbledore is using the Chocolate Frogs cards of himself in the same way that the portraits of old headmasters spy on others. After all, look at all the times Harry and Ron have gotten Chocolate Frogs cards with his picture on them.

2.The new Minister of Magic may be Amelia Bones (and not Arthur Weasley).

3. In Books 6 and 7 we will find out exactly why JK killed off Sirius.

4. More about the animosity between Snape and Sirius will be revealed in the last two books.

Aparna Vaidyanathan, Std IX,
Ryan International School,
Noida, New Delhi.

Finally, here are some things which JKR hasn't clarified.

1.She has never mentioned the Head of Ravenclaw house & its ghost.

2.Fred and George got their OWL results at Hogwarts. But Harry is told by McGonagall that he will get his results only in July (after the term ends).

3.We are told that the Ministry of Magic was empty (they were searching for Sirius) when Voldemort appeared there and the fight took place. Isn't it odd, that not even a security guard was present?

4.At the start of the first year, Hermione tells Harry and Ron that she had practised a few spells in case she has to undergo a test during 'sorting'. However, Harry is reprimanded for using magic outside Hogwarts. Further, there is a restriction that under-age wizards cannot use magic outside Hogwarts.So how come she was not punished?

- B. Varun,
Std IX,
V.V.S.Sardar
Patel High School,
Bangalore

*** Harry Potter At Hogwarts. Illustration by A. Srute, Std VIII, St. Anthony's Senior Sec. School, New Delhi**

TELL SPELL

1) You have to safeguard some treasure. Which spell would you

use to seal the door such that the Alohomora spell doesn't work?
a.Colloportus b.Portus
c.Waddiwasi

2)Your mother asks you to clean out your dog's kennel. What spell would you use?
a.Accio b.Scourgify c.Knox

3)You Know Who has stolen your gold and placed it in his bag. Getting it back must look like an accident. What spell would split the bag open?
a.Stupefy b.Impedimenta
c.Diffindo

4)You have to go for a party.Unfortunately you don't have transport.To create a portkey, which spell would you use?
a.Portus b.Locomotor Mortis
c.Mobilicorpus

5)Someone teases you for having long teeth.To make his/her teeth grow rapidly what would you do?
a.Morsmordre b.Expelliarmus
c.Densaugeo

Puzzle compiled from facts contributed by

- Sadia Thazeen, Std VII,
Vanavani Mat.Hr.Sec.School,
Chennai

Answers
1)Colloportus 2)Scourgify
3)Diffindo 4)Portus
5)Densaugeo

Magical Mischief Makers

We are freckle faced with
flaming red hair,
And one can't find a better pair.
Our ambition is to start a joke
shop,
Our mother's anger makes us spin
like a top.
We have a collection of candies
Which every Hogwarts' student
fancies.
The orange ones make you ill
The purple ones are the recovery
pill.
Our flight from Hogwarts sent a
wave of shock
Among students this is still the
talk.
Haven't you guessed who we are?
We are the 'Magical Mischief
Makers'

-Fred and George Weasley
G.Sunanda
Chennai

THE SPY-KIDS

Story so far...

Mrs. and Mr. Ramesh, along with their teenage kids, Rinu and Manik have gone to Ootacamund for a holiday. While they go sightseeing, the kids spot a dilapidated building and some men creeping out of it. Rinu who immerses herself in detective books is suspicious and drags her brother, who is not too keen, to find out who they are.

Rinu and Manik tell their parents that they are going to play outside, but actually go off to explore the building in the evening. While Manik finds a dark tunnel behind a shelf and ventures into it, Rinu goes into another room.

Manik finds a piece of paper in the tunnel and pockets it. When his alarm goes off, he finds his way back to the room and looks for his sister. She was not to be seen, but he heard a muffled cry.

(Now read on...)

It came from the... floor!

'This sure is a weird house! Underground caves, tunnels....,' thought Manik, as he started tapping the floor. He found a loose floorboard and lifted it. There was a flight of stairs going down.

"Rinu, where are you? It's me, Manik."

This time the cry was accompanied by beats. The sound came from somewhere to the right. There was a curve towards the right and there Manik found Rinu - bound and gagged!

"Oh, my god," he screamed as he rushed to her aid.

"Thanks little bro," breathed Rinu as he untied the ropes.

"Wh...What happened? Who d...id this?" Manik was flustered.

"Let's first get out of here. I've lots to tell you," said Rinu as she tried to get up.

V.RANJANA

Her legs were numb and cold.

Somehow they got to the kitchen, warmed themselves for a short while near the fire and then sprinted back to the hotel.

"What took you so long?" demanded their mother. "We were terribly worried. You think, both of you can go wherever you like and that too in an unfamiliar town? Where were you?"

"Sorry mom! We... We just lost track of time, you see. We were so busy... playing... very interesting games, really..." lied Rinu.

"Okay, okay. You both wait at the Reception lounge, while dad and I get ready. Then we'll go out for dinner. And don't you move an inch from there!" Mrs. Ramesh warned.

"Tell me what happened," burst out Manik, the moment they reached the lounge.

"I was looking around when I came across a closet... a big one. It had a few wine bottles and food. I peeked in and found some handles and knobs. I tried turning the knobs and at last one of them turned! I put my hand in and found a yellow parchment. It looked like some kind of a 'plan'. I tucked it in the hem of my sweater and resumed my search. Suddenly, someone crept up behind me and knocked the wind out of me. I caught a glimpse of the man, before I fainted. My god! He was a cross between a bear and a monkey! I would have

fainted, anyway, at the sight of him. Well, he must have gagged and bound me and dumped me in that wretched place. Story over!" Rinu smiled.

Manik was horrified. "What if nobody had found you? No food, no water. You'd have died!"

"Well, you found me, didn't you? I'm sure that guy couldn't care less if I had died," said Rinu, rubbing her forehead.

"Does it hurt?" Manik was concerned.

"Nah, no pain. Just shock, I guess. Good thing, I have lots of hair" Rinu joked. "By the way how come you didn't get caught?" She asked.

"I found a tunnel behind the shelf. Luckily, I pushed it back slightly. So I guess that guy didn't notice anything amiss. And I found this." He showed her the folded paper.

"This is what I found." Rinu took out her 'find' from her sweater.

On the paper was written: BEHIND THE KING AT CHARLES 4 ON THE EAT OF YAM.

"What nonsense is this?" Manik scratched his head. "Does it ring a bell, somewhere?"

"Let me think. Hmmm....I've read so many books. Code language... That's what this is." Rinu ran her finger through her hair.

"Well then, decode it yourself," said Manik as he opened the yellow parchment to see if at least that made sense.

"Hey, this looks like some sinister plan... like in movies!" Manik exclaimed softly. "See...it's even got a picture of something we saw in the pamphlet. There are arrows and routes and Jumping Marquees and look... even a bomb in the square! Do you think they're going to blow up something? Are they outlaws?" Manik asked.

"We'll find out. Just go up and fetch that pamphlet and we'll check it out." Rinu was still trying to decode the cryptic words on the paper. 'King...Ummm...Raja, Emperor... Why is this idiot taking so long to bring the pamphlet? And Charles 4...what's that? C-H-A-R-L-E-S...'

(To be continued)

BOOMERANG!

How the Boomerang comes back to You...

Raja was in his favourite pose. Leaning back on the old sofa, watching the Australian Open on TV. But the remote had just slipped out of his hands and gone out of reach. "Can't they make a remote that will come back to a person who was holding it!" he muttered, trying to stretch forward without actually moving from the sofa. "You mean like a boomerang?" asked Viz.

Viz was a spec of silicon dust that was his constant companion, and could give him information on almost anything in the world.

"What boomerang?" asked Raja.

"The boomerang is a stick in the shape of a shallow v. If thrown properly it will come straight back at you!" replied Viz.

"Oh, that! But Viz, I have always wondered how a stick can do that!"

"The boomerang looks simple, but its shape is pretty important. It is usually between one to two feet long and 30-60 cms across. The shape is like two pieces of wood joined together at an angle. The wings are also tilted and the wing is slightly bumpy or curvy on top and flat below."

"You mean like aeroplane wings?" asked Raja.

"Yes," said Viz. "Just as in the aeroplane, the curvy surface above makes air move more quickly over the top than the bottom, creating a pressure difference and giving the object a 'lift'."

"But aeroplanes don't spin in a circle and come back to the same point. But boomerangs do!" pointed out Raja.

"Actually, the boomerang is a bit like a propeller too. It has at least two parts, like wings, attached to the central point.

"The force and the direction of our

throw also matters. As the boomerang is like two parts, when the boomerang is thrown, whichever wing comes to the top at any one time, ends up moving in the same direction of the throw. And whichever wing is at the bottom is moving in the opposite direction of the throw. This means that while the wing at the top is *spinning* at the same speed as the wing at the bottom, it is actually moving through the air at a higher rate of speed!

"This uneven force caused by the difference in speed between the two wings applies a constant force at the top of the spinning boomerang. The boomerang is constantly turning to the left or right, so that it travels in a circle and comes back to its starting point."

Viz transferred by thought this rather complex process of a simple looking instrument to Raja's mind.

'Viz?" asked Raja, thoughtfully "What if there is a strong wind when I throw. Will that also not disturb the boomerang's flight?"

"You are right Raja," said Viz. "There are several forces at play. The force of gravity, the force caused by the propeller motion, the force of your throw, the force caused by the uneven speed of the wings, the force of any wind in the area, are all forces acting on the boomerang. Experts say that you have to hold the boomerang at a particular angle and throw it in a specific way for all the forces to act effectively and bring it back to you!"

"Who discovered the boomerang and for what did they use it?" asked Raja.

" The Australian aborigines are believed to have used the boomerangs first and they used it to scare birds into a net" explained Viz.

"I am going to buy a boomerang and practice in the holidays" said Raja. "Everybody in the neighbourhood had better wear a helmet!" teased Viz.

KING of COMEDY

Around the year 1900, a small, dark - haired boy named Charles Spencer Chaplin was often seen waiting outside the back entrances of London theatres. He looked thin and hungry but his blue eyes were determined. He was looking for a role in show business. He could sing and dance. His parents were music - hall performers and although his own boyhood was painfully hard, he knew how to make people laugh.

His parents were divorced early in his life, and his mother wasn't able to provide for Charles and his older half - brother, Sydney. His suit was in rags. It wasn't always possible to get work. He travelled for a while with a stage company called 'The Eight Lancashire Lads.'

When Charles couldn't get work he wandered about the city's streets. Sometimes he was sent away to orphanages. There, children were punished at the slightest pretext. He hated it there.

Thirty years later this same Charles Chaplin was the guest of kings. Rich, successful and famous people of many nations were his hosts. Photographs show him in the company of men like Churchill, Einstein and Gandhi. He had become almost a royal figure in the bright new world of cinema. People everywhere have sat and laughed through his films.

From his first appearance, they knew what to expect from the little man with the stiff black mouthstache, round black hat and shoes too large for his feet. Fighting men twice his size and falling in love with women who scarcely noticed him, Charlie stole the hearts of millions of viewers. Childlike, weak, frightened and foolish, but always

with a never - say - die attitude!

Even people who don't understand English can enjoy Chaplin's films because they are mostly silent. His comedy doesn't depend on words or language. It depends upon little actions which mean the same thing to people all over the world. He was the master of the art of mime.

Raising his thick black eyebrows or rolling his eyes, straightening his coat or swinging his walking stick in the air he sent messages to his fans. He hides behind a fat lady or creeps under a table to escape from his enemies. Trying to be brave, he swoons on the floor! He shakes the dust off his rags to make a proud appearance at some grand social occasion. He pretends to be what he is not and never could be - a rich, successful, important man. It is all so hopeless and impossible, that it makes us laugh. This is the secret of Chaplin's success.

He describes himself as a citizen of the world rather than of a particular country. His most famous films date back to the 1920s and 1930s, the era of the silent films. But, to many people, the world over, Charlie is still the 'King of Comedy'

Written & Illustrated by
Karthik Bhushan, Std VIII, SSSLSVK, Alike

- S. Akarsh, Std VIII, Nawi Mumbai

CLEVER FROGGIE

Story : R. Saradha, Chennai Illustration : Pillai

The stork dropped Froggie and rushed towards the fish.

Few days later, while Froggie was on land, an eagle caught him.

Hold on! I am not as tasty as 'land creatures' like mice and rabbits. I soak in the pond and will be mushy.

But I've seen you on the land!

I'm hungry

I have a health problem. If I stay in the pond too long, it worsens. So I move onto the land for a break. Over there is a burrow. Go and feed on the rabbits.

The eagle also let Froggie go.

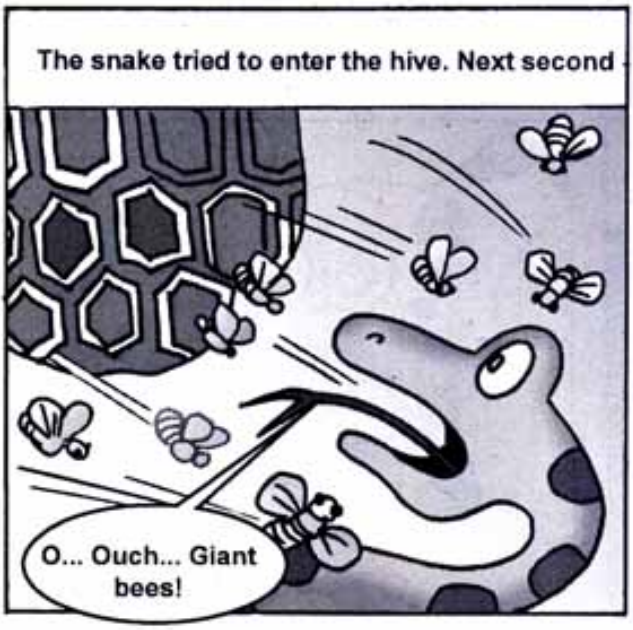
Next week Froggie was relaxing in the shade. A snake lived there. He caught Froggie.

Brother snake, I...

Sh... No tricks please. I don't care whether you live in the pond or on land. I like both kinds.
When there's a big feast waiting for you, would you rather go half hungry just eating me?

What...?

Okay, bye!
Out there on the left, there is a hive with no bees. But fifty frogs are hiding in there. Go and eat them.


The snake tried to enter the hive. Next second
O... Ouch... Giant bees!

Clever Froggie gleefully leap back into the pond.

PARTY TIME

Next time you have a party, make it a theme party. Send out secret invitations and get each invitee to put on a unique mask. Have fun!

PERSONAL MESSAGES

For sending secret invitations, all you need is two papers, a pen and some water.

Procedure: -

1. Take one paper and keep it in water and then place it flat on the ground.
2. Place the dry paper on the wet paper
3. Write your message, on the dry paper. Take it out and you'll find the message on the wet sheet.
4. Now let the paper dry (in the sun). The message vanishes! Abracadabra! Your secret invition is ready to be handed over. Remember to tell your friend to wet the paper to read the message.

- Aditi Jain, Std VI, Vidya Mandir, Chennai

MASK

Give each invitee a mask. Have you ever tried to make one?

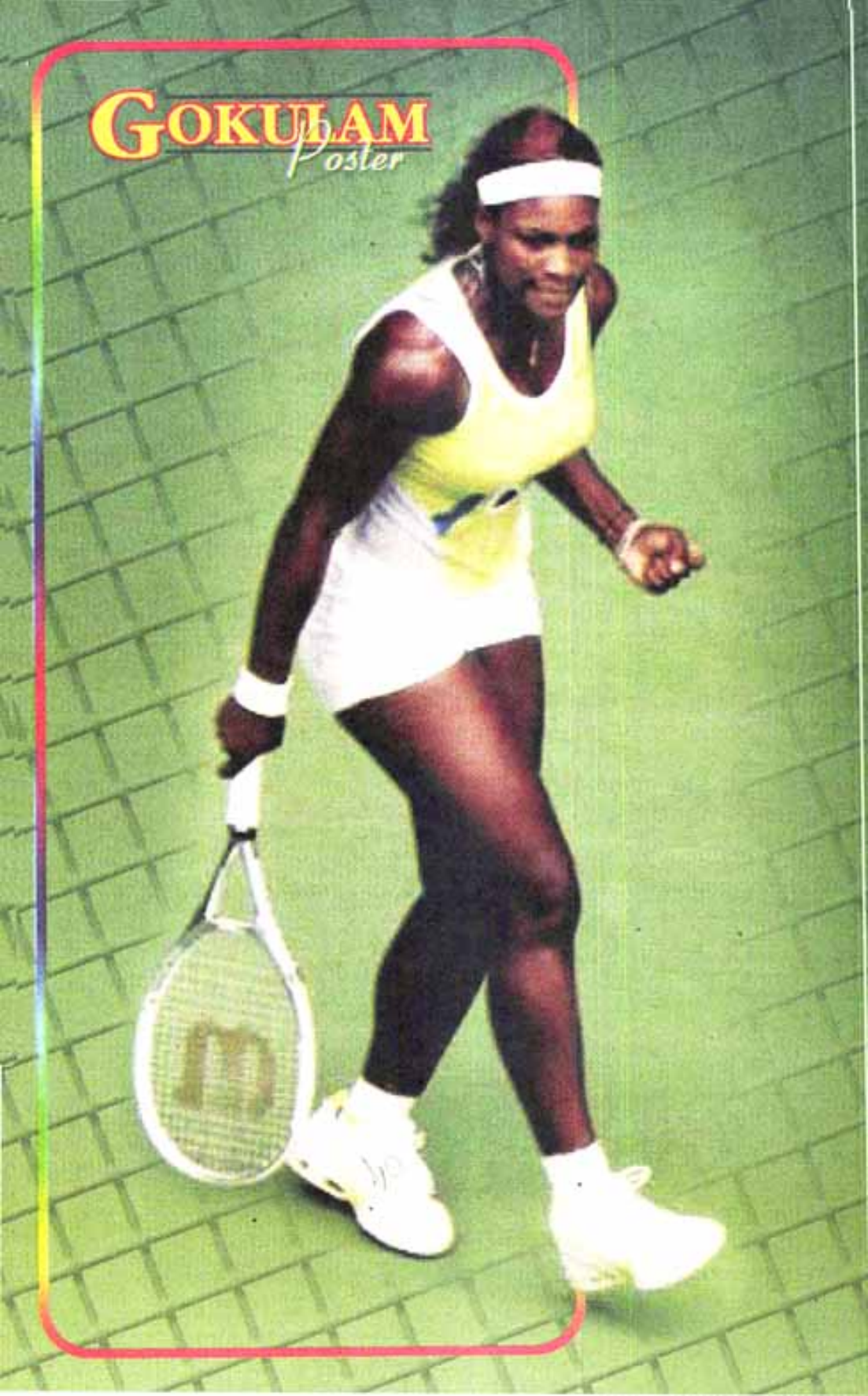
You will need:

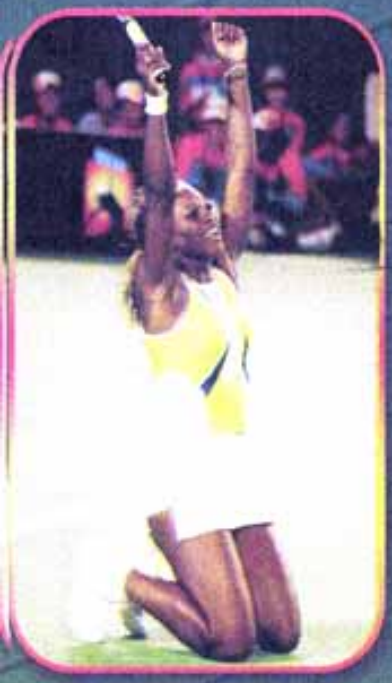
A paper, thin cardboard, a thread or a rubberband, a pair of scissors, a pencil, a packet of colours, compass

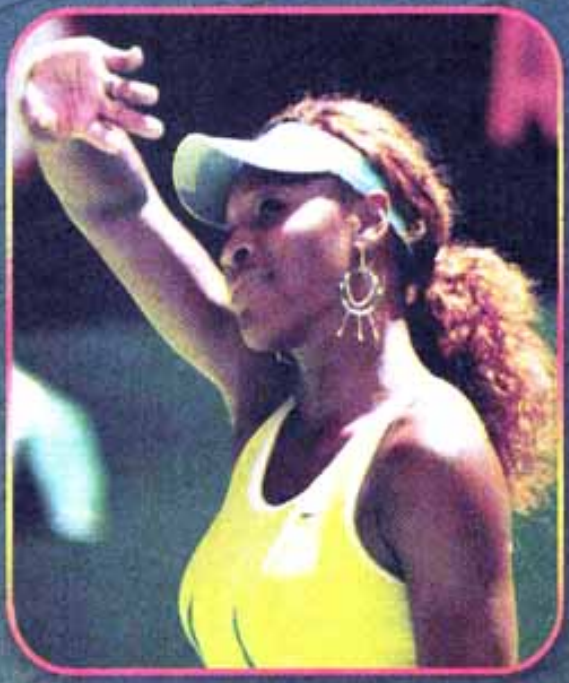
Method

Take a paper and paste it on thin cardboard. Draw a big circle using compass and pencil. Cut it out. The mask need not necessarily be round. The shape can vary as shown in the picture. Now draw two eyes, a nose and mouth. Cut them out to leave hollow spaces. Colour the mask using colours. Make holes on both sides to tie the string or rubber band to it. Use your imagination to create masks for different characters.

- E. Santhosh Vamsi, Std VI, Vishakapatnam.


GOKULAM
Poster





Victory, Thy Name Is SERENA!

SILENT

Dear Children,

Priya Rao from Delhi has asked me the question as to why the T in Tsunami is silent and what is the use of silent letters in words in English. Tsunami is a Japanese word and perhaps it is pronounced with a 'T' in it in Japanese. Do you know that Tokyo is pronounced To-ke- o, Ankara in Turkey is pronounced Angora, Cairo as Kiro and Beirut as Baaroot?

But the longest name, is the name of a Welsh town and I wonder whether you will be able to pronounce it .It is Llanfairpwllwyngliigogerychwyrndr obwllllantysiliogogogoch. Don't even try. I will do it for you. Here is the way to pronounce it.——hlan-virpoohlgwin gahl-go-gerooki-wooym-drooboohl-hlante-se-le-o go-go-gokh.

To continue Priya's question: What is the use of silent letters in words like knife, psychology and know?

As far as pronunciation is concerned, silent letters in words are useless. Silent letters do have one use though. They tell us about the origin of words. Words have been borrowed into the English language over the centuries. The spelling has been retained but the pronunciation has changed. Even the spellings and pronunciation of words in Old English and Middle English has changed so much, you will not recognise the words in Modern English.

Take the word "psalm". It is pronounced "salm" The word comes from Latin Psalmus.

The word "know" is an Aryan verb retained in English from Old English (ge)endum.In Latin it is (g)no. In Scottish the word has become "ken". All these words are related because of the same origin.

Here is a list of words which have silent letters in them. Put the silent

LETTERS!

letters in brackets.

Blackguard, corps, glisten, mortgage, lamb, heir, prohibition, shepherd, soften.

Answers: bla(ck)guard, cor(ps), glis(t)en, mor(t)gage, lam(b), (h)eir, pro(h)ibition, Shep(h)erd, sof(t)en.

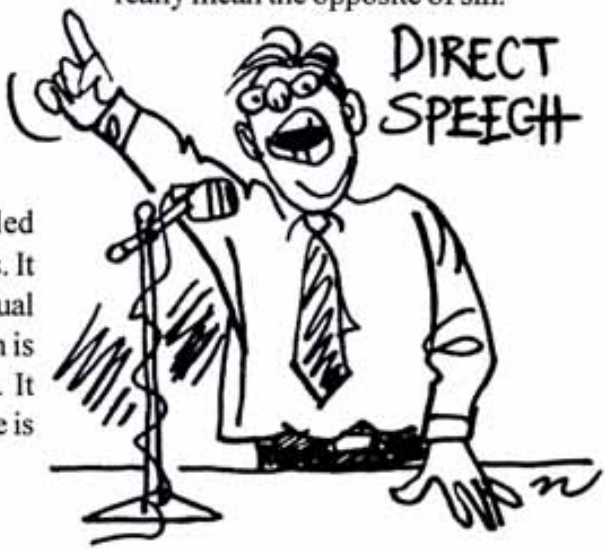
What is the difference between written and spoken English? **N.Divya , Bangalore.**

Spoken English is what is called "Direct Speech" in grammar books. It is the way a speaker speaks, the actual words that he uses .Written English is formal, descriptive and narrative. It involves the style of the writer. There is no great difference in the way the language is used but there is a difference.

Does the word "sin" have an opposite?

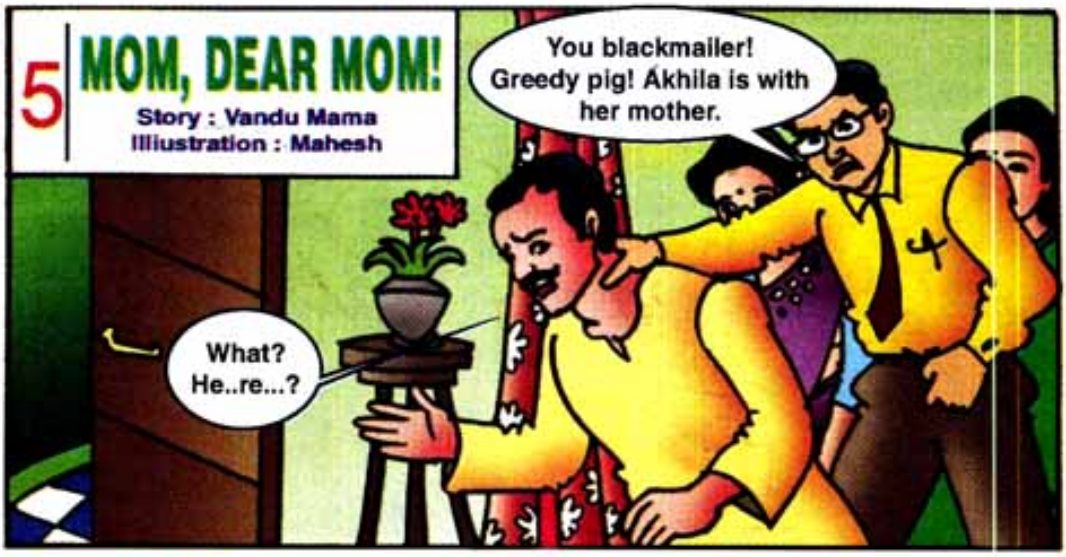
Praneeta Roy, Vishakapatnam.

There are really no exact opposites for the word "sin" and there are really no similar words (synonyms) either. Sin means going against religious, ethical and moral standards. It has a religious connotation. Do you think that words like "wrong",and "misdeed" would give you the same meaning as sin? I don't think so .In the same way, words like "benefaction", " good deeds "and "kindness" would not really mean the opposite of sin.



5 MOM, DEAR MOM!

Story : Vandu Mama
Illustration : Mahesh



Both of them chatted along as they went to see the house.
Do you like this bungalow, Akhila?
Fantastic, Mom!
This beautiful house is for just the two of us, Akhila.
Mom! See me dive!
Great, Akhila! You are a quick learner -
Who are they? Why am I scared of them...?

The visitors explain the purpose of their visit...
Sorry Vasantha. This is 'show-biz'
No way! I can't go that far. Is there no other option?
Mom.... What's it? Who're they?
We've hardly been together for two months and already he's asking me to go abroad for a shooting.
That man, Laxman, is my agent. The producer wants to shoot in South America. I can't say 'no'. There's a contract.
Can't I come with you?
I'd love that, darling, Akhila. But your studies...
You'll be back soon, won't you?
Three months, dear.

Akhila, once I complete this film, I'll quit acting and be with you, always, my dear!
I know. Don't worry about me.
While departing...
I'll give you a phone call when I get back. Meanwhile Laxman will look after you.
Akhila, dear! Now you're under my care. Don't worry.
Thanks, Laxman! Bye... darling!
I miss mom, so badly...
The first phase of our plan has gone off smoothly. The next stage is in Dandapani's hands.
Okay, boss... Good idea. The stakes are high - lady luck will smile at us!
Once Vasantha is out of the way, everything will fall into place.
(To be continued)

A REALLY 'SHORT' STORY CONTEST-9

'SHIPWRECK' and 'AN UNKNOWN ISLAND'. Easy subjects for a story contest, eh? Get on with it. Write an original story, in not more than 350 words, using these ideas.

LAST DATE 24.3.2005

Send in your entries to :

Gokulam, 47-N.P., Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

- The best entry will receive a prize of Rs.100/-.
- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story is your original creation.
- The prize winning story will appear in the May 2005 issue of Gokulam.
- Next short story contest announcement April 2005.
- Mention 'short story contest' on the envelope.
- Editor's decision is final.

art GALLERY

Sarah Parveen,
Std VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Gachi Bowli, Hyderabad

H.K. Surya, Std III,
Sindhi High School, Bangalore

Aparna Chandrasekar, Std VIII,
Maneckji Cooper Education
Trust School, Mumbai

G. Ragu, Std VI,
Saradha Matriculation School,
Gingee

V. Sridevi, Std IX,
Galada Jain Vidyalaya
Matriculation School,
Chennai

Forgetful Dad!

My father is an absent minded person. I once went with him to his office, just to look around and meet his friends. He finished his work, and was preparing to leave. He asked me whether I was ready to go home.

Just then I remembered that I had left my hanky in the adjacent toilet. I told him that I would fetch it in a minute. On return, I found myself locked inside his office room! I started crying because my father had left without me.

After a few minutes, he rushed into the room, not to fetch me - but to retrieve his keys!

- S. Prudivya, Aged 11 years, Raipur

The Board Exams

I had scored 99% marks in Social Studies in my Pre. Board- I. I was elated. I had prepared well and was thorough with the concepts and lessons.

Pre - Board II was only fifteen days away. I was over confident about the subject and ignored it. The day before the exam, I tried to mug up everything without understanding the concepts and wasted a lot of time. Obviously, I couldn't prepare well.

During the exam, I tried to recall what I had

THANK GOD!

memorised and finally lost marks even in easy questions which I could have answered if I had concentrated on concepts instead of mugging.

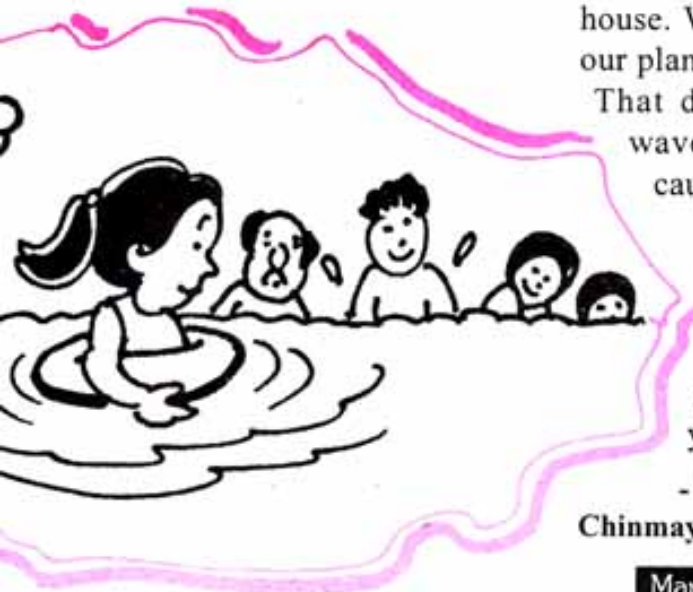
I would like to share this experience with all the readers who will be appearing for the Board exams. Best of luck!

- Gurudarshan S. Gour
Std X, K.V. Gulbarga

Miraculous Escape

On a calm cloudy Christmas day, my grandfather took us (my father, brother, cousin and myself) for a sea bath at Eravipuram Beach, near Kollam. Since I don't know swimming, I floated on a tyretube and later relaxed on the beach.

Suddenly a naughty wave gushed onto me and pushed me backwards. I called out to the sea, "Bad Boy" amidst laughter. We had a lot of fun and decided to come again the next day.



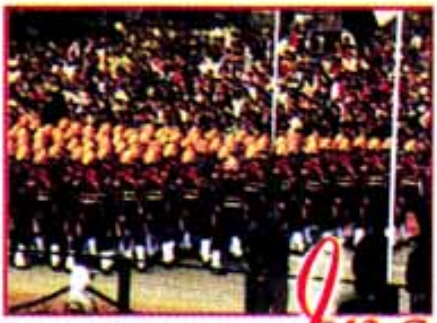
However, on December 26th my mother took us to my Nanny's house. We went reluctantly, since our plans for the day were ruined. That day at 10 A.M, tsunami waves struck our beach and caused havoc.

We thanked God for the miraculous escape because if we had gone ahead with our plans I wouldn't have lived to tell you this tale!

- Sandra S. Francis, Std IX,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tripunithura

Incredible CAPITAL

When one watches the Republic Day Parade on television, one feels proud of the military might of our country and its cultural diversity. A wreath is placed by the Prime Minister at Amar Jawan Jyothi at the India Gate. This is where we begin our tour of the Capital city. The parade goes down Rajpath.



The Secretariats, North and South Block, housing the ministries, stand on both sides of Raisina hill.

The majestic Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's palatial residence is a blend of Mughal and Western architectural styles, with a huge copper dome. It has 340 rooms and also the lovely Mughal gardens, which is open to public in February.

North of Rajpath is Parliament House (Sansad Bhavan), a circular colonnaded structure which is the seat of democracy.

South of Rajpath, on Janpath, visit the National Museum which has a large collecion of bronzes, terracotta and miniatures.

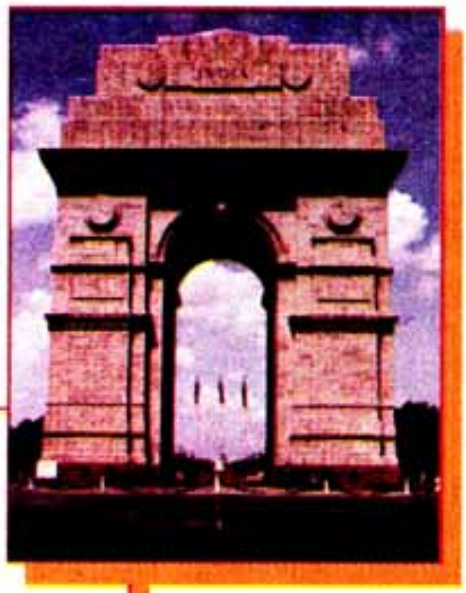
The shopper's paradise is Connaught Place, a vast traffic circle, which again is has an architect's delight. Palika Bazaar, is the A.C. underground bazaar, where you can strike good bargains.

Jantar Mantar, an observatory built in

1725, is a short stroll away. Visit the State Government Emporia on Baba Kharak Singh Marg, to get a feel of rural India. The Birla temple is also worth a visit.

Shahjahanabad is about 7 kms north of Connaught Circus while the Qutab Minar is 10 kms south with Tughlaqabad, 8kms east. Qutab Minar dates back to the early Muslim rulers and is an example of Afghan Architecture, 73 mts. high, tapering from 15 mts at the bottom to 2½ mts at the top. The Bahai temple, north of Tughlaqabad presents a spectacular sight, especially when floodlit.

Old Delhi, lying on the banks of the Yamuna is marked by memorials including Gandhiji's Rajghat. Built in Mughal style, Jama Masjid and Red Fort are the creations of Shah Jahan. Even today the Prime Minister addresses the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort (LalQuila) on Independence Day. A visit



to Chandni Chowk, a shopping area nearby is an experience in itself.

A unique blend of new and old, of various cultures and people; Delhi is certainly the incredible capital of India!

- Shreya Muralidhar,
Std XI, Springdales School,
New Delhi

SHUTTERBUGS!

Lush green village, with little children running around and their parents going about their daily chores, makes you want to capture the scene and preserve it in an album. CLICK! And the scene is captured for posterity!

Derived from the Greek words photos (light) and graphein (to draw), what began as 'daguerreotypes' (photographs which were produced on a silver or silver–coated copper plate), has today developed into an art, which involves the latest techniques and the most sophisticated equipment.

For most people, photography is a hobby. It requires a keen eye for aesthetic detail, what is 'photo–worthy', a thorough knowledge of cameras and the technical details like light, distance and perspective. You also need to be a sensitive and introspective individual.

Interested? Become a shutterbug and start clicking!!

With training, one can hone one's inherent talent and shine in this competitive field and even specialize.

Fashion photography is a recently developed career in India, where work opportunities have grown with increasing fashion awareness. It is also a well-paid profession. Fashion photography is carried out by specialised studios or by freelancers who are commissioned by fashion houses, designers or advertising agencies. They usually work under a fashion expert.

Advertising agencies have Photography Departments which employ photographers to take pictures of models. Though most of them focus on catalogue work, the rest specialize in 'mail order' photography. Being the best-paid and most competitive branch; success in this sphere depends entirely on ability, efficiency and the right personality. Although specific instructions as to what exactly has to be photographed are given to the photographer, suggestions or individual ideas for new angles are normally expected from them.

Photo-journalism or press photographers, supply photos to the press. They must be versatile, have the ability to photograph all kinds of subjects and must also possess journalistic instincts and work well with the reporters. They often have to work under difficult conditions.

Nature and Wildlife Photography involves taking photographs of animals, birds, plants and landscapes. While photos of rare species are in great demand, nature photographs are also widely used as pictures on calendars or magazine covers.

An Industrial photographer's main emphasis is on taking pictures for a company The main intention is to make their factory, machines or products look good.

Qualifications

You can take up photography, after passing Std.XII or upon graduation. College students can take up part time courses in photography. Read books that give you basic information about photography, how the camera and allied equipments work, etc. This can help you decide whether you need to do a course in photography. Assist a senior or professional photographer. This would help you to grasp the intricacies of photography, and will give you a better understanding of the kind of equipment you would require. You can

simultaneously shoot pictures yourself.

Photographers can start working as assistants to senior photographers, in which capacity they are paid Rs. 3,500 to 6,000. When you gather experience Your earnings can go up to Rs. 25,000.

In fact, the United States government has forecast that careers in photography will steadily grow by 35%, every five years! The opportunities are endless! So, what are you waiting for?

Next month

TRAVEL & TOURISM

Feedback to

gokulam@careersindia.com

ABHINAV RAMNARAYAN

EXCITING TENNIS!

The Australian Open, 2005, saw the tournament celebrate its 100th year since its inception, and the event was organised on a grand scale. And boy, did the matches live up to expectations!

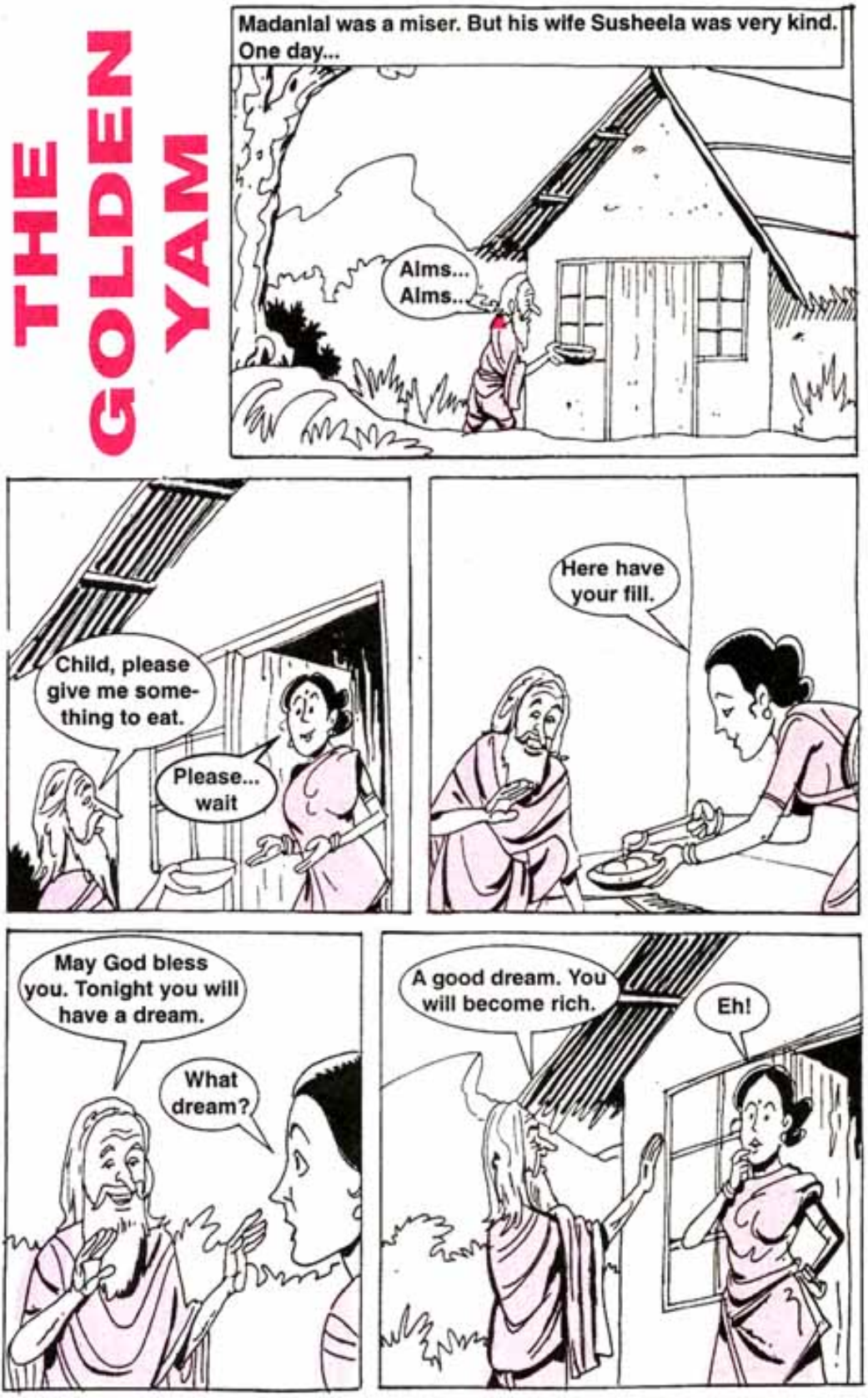
Starting on a patriotic note, India saw a potential star making her mark on the international circuit - Sania Mirza. It was quite an achievement for the 166th ranked wild card entrant to get to the third round, where Serena Williams put a stop to her hopes. Serena, of course, went on to win the tournament. There was a lot of speculation as to whether the Williams' era was at a close, but Serena simply took out Russian star Maria Sharapova in an epic semi-final encounter, and then went on to decimate fellow countryperson Lindsay Davenport in the finals.

• Safin

But it was in the men's section that the real excitement lay, this time round. One of the most glorious matches in tennis history took place in the semi-finals, when the seemingly unbeatable Roger Federer proved that he was human, when he lost to under-achiever Marat Safin. But there was no lack of drama in the contest. Safin pulled off an astonishingly accurate lob in the fourth set when his opponent was on match point, and went on to win the set. In the fifth, it was Federer's turn to come back from the dead, squaring the set after being down 5-2. The quality of tennis reached unbelievable proportions as both players struggled to go one up on the other, and Safin finally held his nerve and pulled off a 10-8 victory. In the finals, he met homeboy Lleyton Hewitt who had successfully countered the blistering pace of Andy Roddick in the other semi-final. Hewitt too played some really outstanding tennis, running down every ball, and defending his side of the court like a champion.

However, once Safin gets into his stride, it's near impossible to stop him. His winners started going in during the latter stages of the third set, and from that point he took control of the match, and took home the trophy. Is this the start of a great Safin - Federer rivalry?

THE GOLDEN YAM



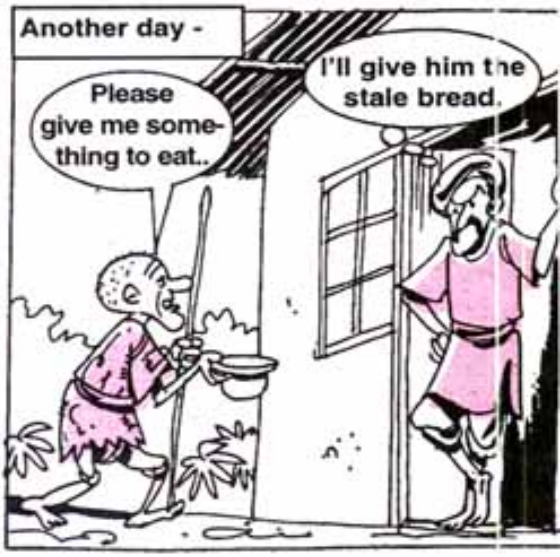
SNORE....

Wake up, wake up, I had a dream.There is gold under our yam

They immediately dug out the yam in their kitchen garden.
Wow! Gold in place of yam!

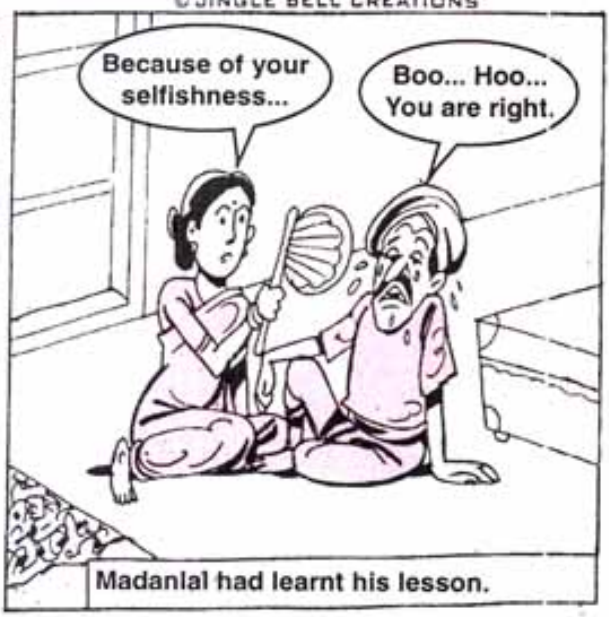
Don't tell anybody. People will come and ask for some of the gold.
So what? Do we need this much gold? Let us give some to the poor.

God gave us this gift. Why should we part with it?


Another day -
Please give me something to eat..
I'll give him the stale bread.

Here, take this and leave.
There are worms on this!
So what?
Tonight you will have a dream.
Wow! Treasure again.
That night Madanlal went to bed early.
Ah, the treasure... I can't sleep...
LATER-

© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS



POST HASTE!

Name: **Raghav Bagri**
Age: 13
Address: Gopal Kunj, JB Nagar, Andheri (East) Mumbai - 400 059.
Hobbies: Reading, making friends, chatting, doing science experiments.

Name: **Sneha Reddy**
Age: 13
Address: 897, Vasanth Nagar, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
Hobbies: Chatting, reading, dancing and making friends.

Name: **J. Jane Eyre**
Age: 13
Address: 3/3, Old Hospital Road, Sorakalpet, Cuddalore - 607 001.
Hobbies: Reading story books, drawing and painting, making friends, playing.

Name: **Nikita Garg**
Age: 13
Address: 30/581, Indian Airlines Officers Colony, Kandivali (E), Mumbai - 400 101.
Hobbies: Surfing the net, chatting, making friends and dancing.

Name: **Shivani Deshpande**
Age: 11
Address: Qtr.No C/3, HTPS Colony, Korba (West) Chattisgarh.
Hobbies: Playing Badminton, reading Gokulam and novels, drawing and doing craftwork.

Name: **N. Karthik**
Age: 14
Address: 67, Anna Street, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600 041.
Hobbies: Reading Gokulam, chatting on internet, playing video games and chess and playing with my pet.

Name: **Bassa Satya Soudamini**
Age:14
Address: 9, Zamindar gardens, I floor, Pondicherry - 605 012.
Hobbies: Drawing, painting, dancing, watching cricket watches reading Gokulam and

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Readers,

* You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your - **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contribution to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

- **Editor**

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2005, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize.

making friends.

Name: **Aneri Desai**
Age: 13
Address: 157, Nirmala Niwas, 3rd floor, 14A (Near Bank of Maharashtra) Main Road, Sion (E) Mumbai - 400 022.
Hobbies: Chatting, surfing the net, making friends.

Name: **G. Ashwini**
Age: 13
Address: 1056, 2nd Cross, 7th Main Road, Srirampuram, Bangalore - 560 021.
Hobbies: Reading Gokulam and other books, listening to music, painting and dancing.

Name: **Ganesh Iyer**
Age: 9
Address: G.209 Shrinand Nagar, P-2, Vejalpur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380 051.
Hobbies: Reading Gokulam, playing cricket, book - cricket and baseball, writing articles, playing computer games and flying kites.

Name: **A.V.S. Bhagyashree**
Age: 13
Address: G.A.II, No.23, H.No 918, SBH Colony, Gaddiannaram, Hyderabad - 500 060.
Hobbies: Music, poetry, exploring, reading Gokulam and making penfriends.

THE DAUNTING STRANGER

Subhash is a ninth standard student of D.P.S., New Delhi. While his mother, Sarita, is a chef at a Five Star hotel in the city, his father Rajesh, works in the Defence Ministry.

On Christmas eve, they were expecting a special guest for dinner. It was also Subhash's birthday. His mother was busy in the kitchen since morning, preparing delicacies for supper.

"Subhash, can you quickly fetch me some carrots and tomatoes for the salad. Pick up the icecream too, will you?" Sarita thrust some money and a bag into his hands.

It was 8 P.M. Subhash was used to these errands and their apartment was almost bang opposite the Sarojini Nagar market.

Subhash picked up the vegetables and was paying for them when he noticed a strange looking man, looking intently at him. He sported a pair of thick moustaches and wore a stern expression on his face.

He followed Subhash to the ice cream shop. Now, Subhash was scared. He recalled the horrid

The following particulars regarding the ownership of 'GOKULAM' the English Monthly newspaper, are published, as called for by rule 8 of the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules 1956.

FORM IV

1. Place of Publication	: Chennai
2. Periodicity of Publication	: Monthly
3. Name of Printer	: K. Rajendran
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: Old No. 35, New No.14, 4th Main Road, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.
4. Name of Publisher	: K. Rajendran
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: Old No. 35, New No.14, 4th Main Road, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.
5. Name of Editor	: K. Rajendran
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: Old No. 35, New No.14, 4th Main Road, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020.

6. Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one percent of the total capital: **Bharathan Publications Private Limited, 47-NP., Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.**

I hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1.3.2005

K. Rajendran
Publisher

kidnappings, he had watched on T.V. He forgot the ice-cream and carrying his bag of purchases, he started running towards home.

Once, when he turned to look back, he found the stranger following him with long strides. Subhash was terrified. He rushed into the gate. The watchman was nowhere to be seen. He raced down to his flat. Luckily, the door was open. His mother was waiting for him.

Huffing and puffing, he barged the door shut and leaned on it. His mother started "Subhash... What's the matter? "

"Ding, Dong!" The doorbell rang. Before Subhash could alert her, Sarita had opened the door.

"Happy Birthday, Subhash!" The stranger was holding out a gift pack of ice-cream for him. Subhash was stunned.

"Subhash, meet Uncle Joseph, your dad's close friend, the army colonel" Sarita was saying, blissfully ignorant about Subhash's discomfiture.

"But...but..." started Subhash.

"The moment I saw him in the shop, I knew he was Rajesh's son. I'd gone there to enquire where your apartment was. But I only had to follow Subhash, to land at your doorstep! Father and son look identical", explained Col.Joseph.

Subhash went red in the face!

- V.M. Kannan, Std IX,
DTEA.Sr.Sec.School, New Delhi

Passerby: You clumsy oaf, one of those bricks spoilt my new hat!

Mason : You're lucky. Look at the bricks that didn't break your head!

- Arnab Mishra,
Std. V,
Bhubaneswar

SPOT IT RIGHT 15

Rules and Regulations

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed picture and answer accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 10.03.2005

Assemble the eight scrambled jigsaw pieces to complete the picture and write the answer.

Hint : Poet and the last Mughal Emperor of Delhi.

ANSWER : _____

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

Space for completed picture

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

I. FUN TEASERS

1. What did the mother ghost. say to the child ghost?

2. Why do witches always play cricket at night?

3. How does a rabbit send a letter?

4. What kind of duck rides on a bus?

5. What word is always pronounced wrong?

6. When an old-fashioned grandfather clock strikes thirteen, what time is it?

7. What do you call a fish with no eyes?

8. What do you say, when you meet a three-headed man?

9. Which side of a cat has more hair?

10. What can you catch in your right hand but never in your left hand?

1. Mithila Ananth,
Std XII,
VCPUC, Bangalore.

a. What did the elephant do in the telephone booth?

b. What did the mother kangaroo say when her son got a prize?

c. Why were there a lot of ants in my dream?

RIDDLE - A

d. Why is Sachin Tendulkar perfect?

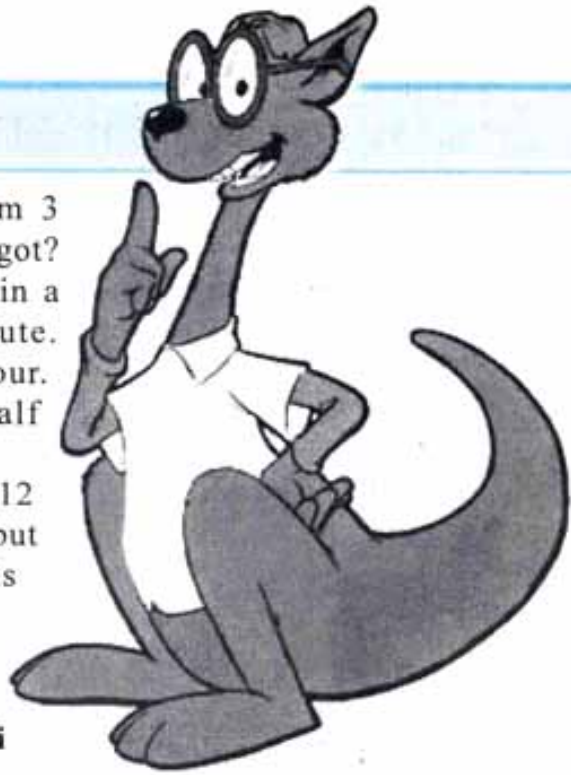
e. My job is to shoot, but not to hurt, what am I?

V. Aditya, Std V,
SSNKM Sharada Mandir,
Kochi

II. CHALLENGERS!

1. If 3 cats can kill 3 rats in 3 minutes, how long will it take 100 cats to kill 100 rats?

2. Which is correct? 8 and 8 are 15, or 8 and 8 is 15?



3. Take two apples from 3 apples... and what have you got?

4. The number of fruits in a basket doubles every minute. The basket is full in an hour. When was the basket half full?

5. We know that there are 12 one rupee pencils in a box, but how many two rupees pencils are there in a dozen?

- V. Mahadevan, Std VII,
P.S.Sr. Sec School,
Chennai

DIDDLE

III. FRUIT PUZZLE

Can you find the names of fruits hidden in this basket?

-Rupai,
Std VI, KV, Kharagpur

ANSWERS:

I 1. Don't "spook" until you are "spooken" to! 2. Because their bats sleep during the day! 3. By "hare" mail! 4. A "con-duck-tor"! 5. Wrong (of course!) 6. Time to get it repaired! 7. Fish! 8. hello! hello! hello! 9. The outside! 10. Your left arm/elbow! a. It made a TRUNK call, b. KANGARULATIONS, c. I was seeing a 'SWEET" dream, d. His name has 'TEN' (perfect number) in it, e. I am a photographer.

II. 1. Three minutes. (It takes each cat three minutes to kill each rat.) 2. Neither; 8 and 8 still 16, 3. Two apples, of course 4. In 59 minutes, 5. Twelve

III. Apple, Grape, Peach and Lemon.

TOMO IN EGYPT

Story & Pictures: J. disney

The pyramids at Giza (tombs of Pharoahs or kings) and the Great Sphinx are architectural wonders of Ancient Egypt. The pyramids have been in existence for about 4700 years, and are the last surviving Ancient Wonders of the World. The Great Pyramid, to this day is the largest stone monument. Built with about 2,300,000 limestone blocks averaging 2.5 tons each, it is probably thirty times larger in mass than the world's tallest building today! Originally it was encased with a layer of highly polished 20 ton stone slabs. The cornerstone foundations even have ball and socket construction to deal with heat expansion and earthquakes!

BOARD EXAMS -BANE OR BOON

Teenagers today have to face several competitive exams to build a bright career in future. Board exams 'prepare students psychologically to overcome nervousness and exam phobia. Also, children need to accurately judge their progress and find out where they stand. The Std.X Board exams definitely help students to face the challenges ahead.

- Abhirup Sen, Std XI,
St. Thomas' Boys, Kolkata.

Even the Ninth standard students loose their playtime, sleeping hours and have little time to eat. This is because of the Std.X Board Exams. I feel they should be spared the agony.

- S. Arvind, Std VII,
Sainik School, Hosur.

"Board Exams are a pain! I hate them," screamed my sister last year. But they help inculcate good habits like writing neatly, underlining important points etc and also help to build self confidence. So let's face Board exams bravely.

- Marriot Sharon Xavier,
Std IV, St. Francis ICSE
School, Bangalore

I am in Std.X and feel that students should be spared the agony of the Boards. It is very stressful and students go through a lot of tension from a month prior to the exams until the results are declared. Stress is harmful to our well being. Moreover, we have a right to enjoy every moment of our school days. But nowadays, rarely do we find a Std.X student smile!

- T. Sireesha, Std.X,
St. Agnes,
Kharagpur

Board Exams need not be nightmares. But parents and teachers bully

and pressurise the students. Exams need not be banned, as they help to evaluate us. Parents must encourage their children, and teachers must work to build confidence among students, by helping them prepare and not put pressure on them. This way the Boards will be just like any other cycle test!

- V. Radhika,
Std IX, B.S. Mootha Girls' Senior Sec. School,
Chennai

Board Exams motivate students to work hard and test their skills. 'Internal' marks could be added. If the option to study only subjects of interest is given and grade system introduced, then there will be less pressure on students.

- K. Apuroopa, Std X,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad

Board Exams are a must because most of the time if it is an internal exam, questions are leaked out beforehand. If the paper is set by the board and corrected by external examiners, we will know exactly where we stand.

M. Sneha,
Std. VIII,
St. Anne's Girls' High School,
Bangalore

Std. X Board Exams should not be banned because many students study well just before the exams. Board exams ensure that students work hard all through the year. Students' determination and confidence levels also go up and they get a feel of public exams. This helps students face other examinations in future.

-J. Madhuri, Age, 12,
Vishakapatnam

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

April 1st is All Fools Day! Do you make a fool of others, or do you get fooled? (Briefly narrate some pranks.)

Send us your views by 10.03.05. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/- Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too.

Happy HOLI!

Holi heralds the onset of spring. Nature is in full bloom and there is joy in the air. Children and youth love to splash coloured water and powder on each other and there is bonhomie all around. This year, Holi falls on (Full moon day) March 25th.

Originally, a festival to celebrate good rabi harvests, Holi is now associated with legends from Hindu mythology. Holi is celebrated for different reasons in different states.

The predominant version is, the story of Prahalada, the son of Asura King, Hiranyakashipu. He was an ardent worshipper of Vishnu. The king resents this and orders his sister Holika (who is immune to fire) to place Prahalada on her lap and sit on a huge fire. However, Prahalada emerges unscathed while Holika is reduced to ashes. Bonfires are lit to commemorate this (death of evil).

Other stories, especially in

Mathura, Brindavan Nandgaon and Barsana (Vraj Bhoomi) relate to the killing of demon Putana by Lord Krishna and to the burning of demoness Hoda by children. In this region, Holi is also associated with the immortal love of

Krishna and Radha and is celebrated for 16 days!

In Tamilnadu and Kerala, the festival is associated with Kamadeva (God of Love) who was reduced to ashes by Shiva. Shiva was enraged when a proud Kamadeva aimed his arrows at Him when He was in deep meditation. Rati, Kamdeva's wife beseeches Lord Shiva to restore her husband's life. He relents. Kamdeva comes alive but without his physical form. In Tamil Nadu, Holi is known as 'Kama dahanam'.

• Illustration by Shreya S. Kamath, Std .V, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Delhi

The day after full moon, is celebrated as Dhuleti in North India. Rajasthanis and Gujaratis celebrate it in style, feasting, throwing colours and with folk dances. Fairs are held in various parts of Gujarat both by tribals and town folk.

Rajasthani towns, especially Jaisalmer, are transformed into colourful, musical extravaganzas (similar to the holi scenes witnessed in Bollywood movies)! The Bhil tribals of M.P. have retained distinct pre-hindu customs to celebrate the festival.

In rural Maharastra the festival is called Rangapanchami and is celebrated with dancing and singing.

Today, Holi is the ideal excuse for Indians to shed inhibitions and unwind themselves. Distinctions of caste, creed and even religion are thrown to the wind (at least for a day!) Children and teenagers thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Happy Holi!

- M. Sneha, Std VIII, St. Anne's Girls High School,Bangalore

RING RETRIEVED

One day, Akbar and Birbal were inspecting their kingdom which was experiencing its worst summer. Most of the wells and tanks had dried up completely.

They came upon a huge well which was very deep. The emperor peeped in and found that it was completely dry. His golden ring slipped off his finger and fell into the well.

"Birbal, can you take out the ring without climbing down to the bottom of the well?" Akbar challenged. He loved to test Birbal at every available opportunity.

"Of course, your majesty," replied Birbal. "But I need some time."

"Take as long as you wish," said Akbar.

Akbar moved on. Birbal lingered awhile, picked a handful of fresh cowdung found nearby, took aim and threw it on the ring glittering at the bottom of the well.

After a couple of months. There was a heavy downpour. The wells and tanks were filling up rapidly.

Birbal requested Akbar to accompany him on a tour. He led him to the well where he had dropped his ring. Now the well had quite a lot of water. A piece of dried cowdung was floating on the water.

Birbal fished it out, broke it and retrieved the king's ring which was safely embedded in the dried cowdung.

"Your ring, huzoor. I did not get into the well as per your stipulation." Birbal brandished the ring like a magician.

Akbar praised Birbal's ingenuity and placed the ring, as a reward, on Birbal's finger.

Retold by
- Pravin Prabhakaran, Std VI, Holy Name High School, Mumbai

Ancient and MODERN!

Everybody knows that Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan, built the Taj Mahal. He also built several monuments including the famous Jama Masjid (between 1644 and 1658 A.D) at Delhi.

Originally called the 'Masjid-i-Jahanuma' (mosque commanding view of the world) this magnificent structure was built by five thousand artisans and is made up of alternate vertical strips of red sandstone and white marble and is said to have cost Rs. 10 crores!

The tower is made up of five distinct storeys, each with a projecting balcony. The first three are made of red sandstone, the fourth of marble and the fifth of sandstone again. The Minar is covered with intricate carvings and inscribed with verses from the Koran. The courtyard can hold about 25,000 devotees!

The main prayer hall is made up of high cusped arches and marble domes. Devotees throng this mosque on Fridays and other holy days.

The cupboard in the North gate of the mosque has a well preserved collection of Prophet Muhammad's relics - the Koran written on deer skin, a red beard - hair of the prophet, his sandals and his footprint, embedded in a marble slab!

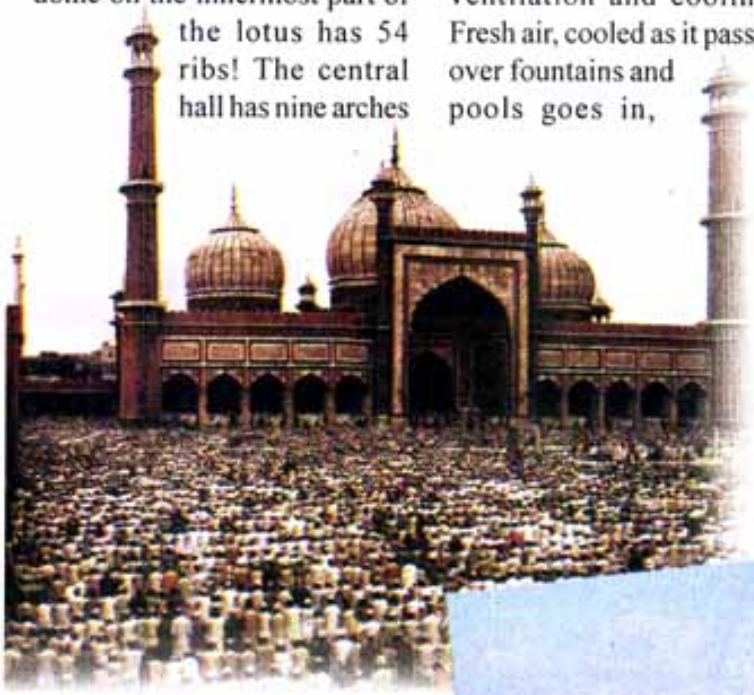
From 17th century old Delhi, we zoom across to the 20th century architectural masterpiece, the Baha'i House of worship in New Delhi which is the most visited edifice in the world! Number of visitors to this temple has surpassed even the Taj Mahal and Eiffel Tower (Paris).

The visitors are enamoured both by the beautiful lotus form of the temple and the Baha'i faith which emphasises the oneness of God, oneness of religions and oneness of mankind.

The lotus, in India, signifies purity and peace. Indian mythology reveres this flower, because it rises pure and unsullied above muddy water and is worthy of emulation.

The Baha'i temple is made up of three ranks of nine petals; each springing from a podium which elevates the building. The first two ranks curve inward, embracing the inner dome, while the third curves outward to form canopies over the nine entrances. The petals, constructed in reinforced white concrete

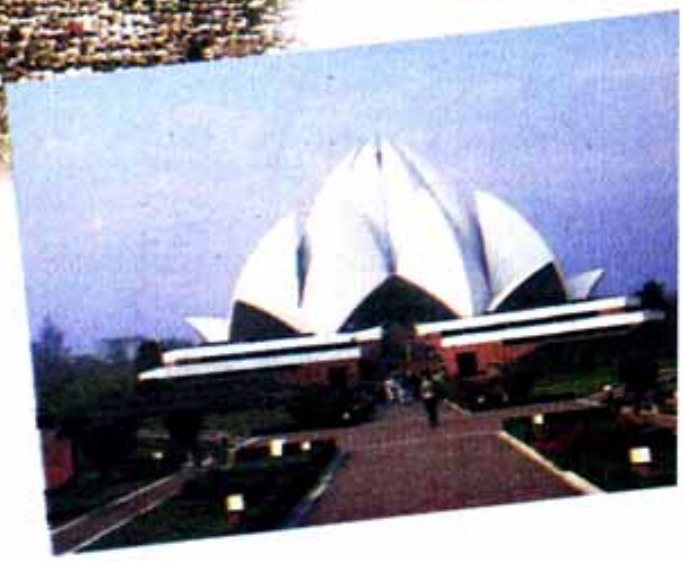
are clad in white marble petals. The double layered interior dome on the innermost part of the lotus has 54 ribs! The central hall has nine arches which support the structure. Nine reflecting pools surround the building suggestive of the green leaves of the lotus.



Fariborz Sahba, a Canadian architect spent ten years in designing and project management. Traditional Indian means of construction was used and a team of 800 engineers, artisans and workers took eighteen months to complete the work.

Translating the geometry of the design into reality was a hereculean task. Apart from that, care has been taken to avoid rust stains on white concrete in humid conditions.

Traditional Indian techniques have been used for ventilation and cooling. Fresh air, cooled as it passes over fountains and pools goes in, through the openings in the basement, and is expelled at the top. The architect in fact claimed that this modern hi-tech complex could not have been executed elsewhere since the traditional Indian workforce was instrumental in building it!



The temple itself has no idols since the all pervasive Almighty cannot be put into any limited form. Over the years, Indian visitors have begun to understand, that this temple is meant to unite the hearts of people and bring them closer to their Creator!

DEMOCRACY or GOONDACRACY?

The King of Nepal, Gyanendra dismissed the democratically elected government, declared emergency and seized all powers. The main reason given by him was that the government headed by Primeminister Deuba was not competent enough to deal with the communist rebels who draw inspiration from Chinese leaders. Now the king's task is tripled! He has to rule the country, fight the communist rebels and also resist the democratic forces who are opposed to the emergency.

• • •

Assembly elections took place in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Haryana. There was violence in all the states but Bihar was the worst affected. Repoll had to be ordered in 660 booths in Bihar alone and that too for the first phase of the elections. It is really sad that democracy is fast becoming Goondacracy in our country. The main reason for this is that the election laws do not prohibit persons accused in criminal cases from contesting elections. Let us hope that our representatives in Parliament will do something about this.

• • •

The B.J.P led ministry in Goa was toppled when four MLAs of the party resigned, reducing the ruling coalition to a minority. A Congress led government was sworn in by the Governor and this action has come in for a lot of criticism since it is considered that they don't really have a majority and that they have roped in the former B.J.P members by offering ministerial berths to atleast two of them. It is felt that this is cheating the anti-defection law.

• • •

Israel and Palestinians have declared ceasefire and the whole world looks forward to peace in the middle east. The Israel Prime minister and Palestinian President smiled and shook hands at the summit hosted by Egypt's President. One wonders whether such a hand shake will become possible between Manmohan Singh and Musharraf!

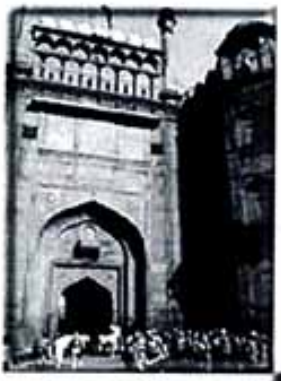
DISCOVER DELHI

1. Premier Medical Institute in New Delhi.

a. AIIMS b. JIPMER, C.VMC

2. Raj Ghat is the memorial for

a. Mahatma Gandhi b. Indira Gandhi C. Rajiv Gandhi



3. Delhi became a Union Territory in

a. 1956 b. 1986 c. 1991

4. The capital of British India shifted from Calcutta to Delhi in

a. 1876 b. 1947 c. 1922

5. The Chief Minister of Delhi is

a. Sushma Swaraj b. Shiela Dikshit c. Vijayraje Scindia

6. The famous amusement park in Delhi is

a. Kishkinta b. Vegaland c. Appu Ghar

7. The Red Fort is also known as

a. Purana Qila b. Lal Qila c. Shah Qila

8. The famous Peacock throne was placed in the Red Fort's

a. Diwani-i-aam b. Diwaan-i-khas c. Mumtaz Mahal

9. Jantar Mantar observatory was created by

a. Shah Jahan b. Sher Shah Suri c. Maharaja Jai Singh

10. The Red Fort has two entrances, one of them being the Delhi Gate. Name the other.

a. Agra Gate b. Afghan gate C. Lahore Gate

11. The Red Fort was built of

a. Red marble b. red sandstone c. red granite

12. The cricket stadium in Delhi

a. Feroz Shah Kotla b. Eden Gardens c. Green Park

Compiled from facts contributed by

P. Rajiv, Std XI, Delhi

R. Rupai, Std XI, Jamshedpur,

K. Aishwarya, Std VIII, Bangalore

ANSWER: 1. a 2.a 3. a 4.a 5.b 6.c 7.b, 8.b 9.c, 10.c 11.b 12. a

CLEVER TRICK!

Story: M. Azhagurajan
Pic : Shekar

village lad thief loot well gold chain

father ear stud village elders

A was peeping into a . A was passing by carrying his .

He noticed the wearing a pair of gold s. He decided to trick the

and steal the s. "Brother, why are you peeping into the ?" the

asked. The had one look at him and knew that he was a who wanted to

steal his s. " I must trick the ", he decided. "Sir, my has fallen into

the My will kill me." So saying, he pretended to cry. The

believed him, and decided to take the too! He handed over his to the

and said, "don't worry I'll fetch your ". The climbed into the

and searched for a long time, but couldn't find the . He gave up and

came out of the . In the meantime, the clever had taken the

and handed it over to the . They praised his cleverness.

Special Summer Camp

Avail Discount on Registration from April 1st to 31st May

An International Abacus Training Program for Children from 6 - 13 yrs

242 Centres & 16,000 Students in INDIA

- Master Arithmetic operations in a fast fun and easy way using ABACUS.
- Improves concentration and listening skills.
- Better application and analytical skills.
- Improved IQ and observation.
- Improve memory and self confidence.
- All Teachers well trained in Abacus Methodology.

First Company to get ISO 9001:2000 certification for Abacus Education in India

Special Program for Children 4 - 6 years

ALOHA TINYTOTS

Enroll your Children today.....!

Become our franchisee and Join the successful Aloha family

ALOHA INDIA

32, 1st Main Road, R.A.Puram Chennai - 600 028
Phone : 044-2461 3262 , 2461 6268, 55682411

Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49668/88 * Registered No. TN / PMG (CCR) 492 / 03 - 05*
Licensed to post without prepayment under PMG's Licence No. WPP 301 / 03 - 05 * Registered as a Newspaper in Srilanka

MILKA

WONDER CAKE

அற்புதமான ஆறு சுவைகளில்